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Russian border guard

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LIONHEART

Scratch building King Richard



NEXUS

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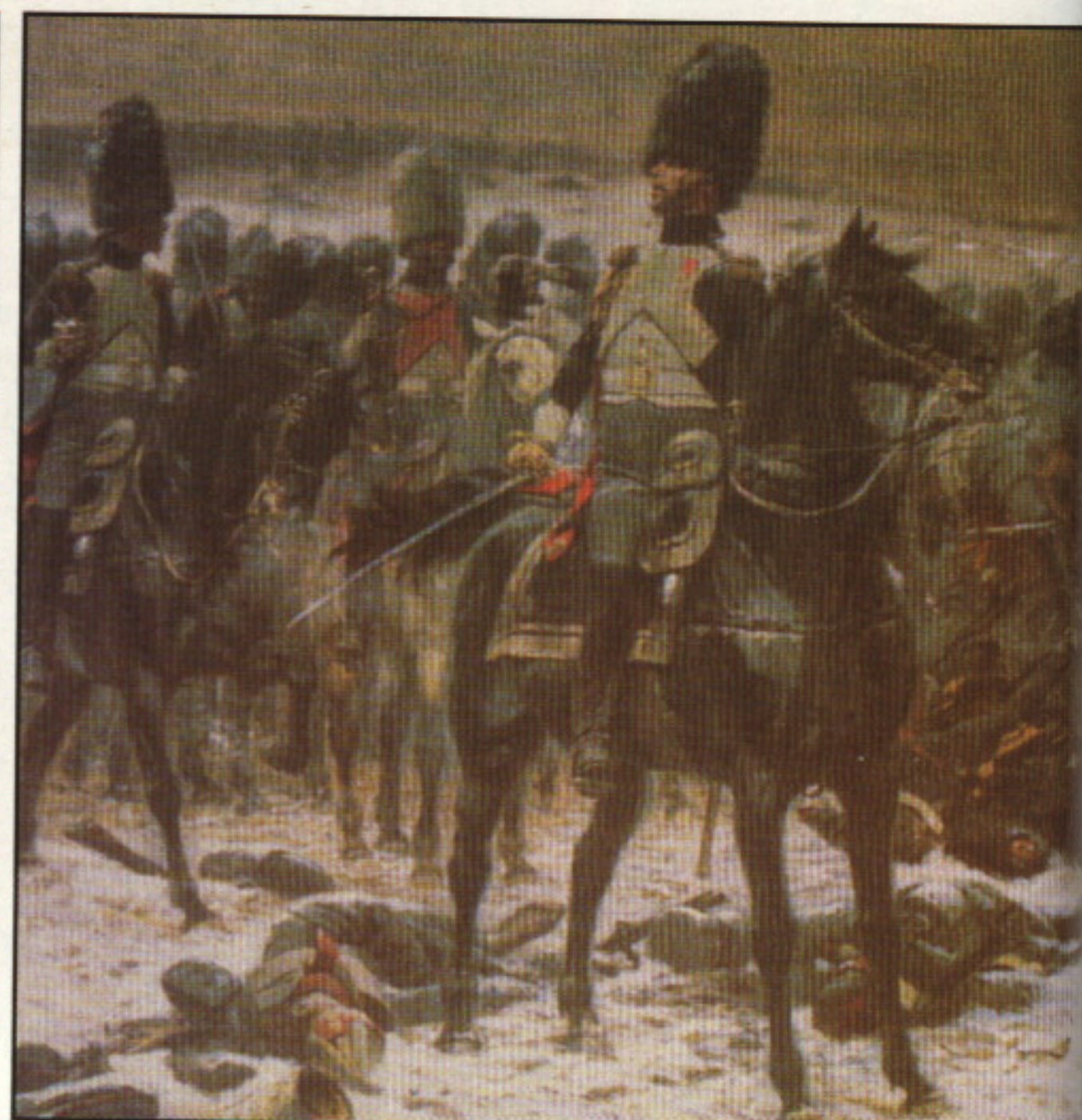
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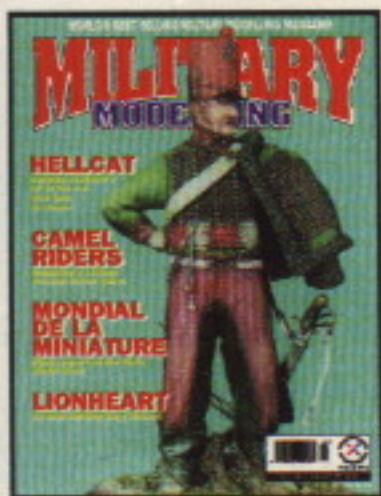
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Vol.27 No.11 1997

CONTENTS

FEATURES

- 16 THE MAKING OF LIONHEART**
Scratch building Richard I as a 120mm miniature figure.
- 18 ACADEMY'S HELLCAT**
Improving the new 1:35 scale kit of the M18 tank destroyer.
- 23 CAMEL RIDERS ON THE BORDER**
Major Verlinden Productions 120mm kit conversion.
- 27 BMSS ANNUALS 1997**
The British Model Soldier Society's Annual Competitions.
- 30 DOWN AT THE DOCKS**
A 1:76 scale WWII period drama.
- 32 MONDIAL DE LA MINIATURE '97**
Military miniatures at the Paris exhibition.
- 38 NEW JERSEY**
Photo report on a top American Show.
- 50 COUNTING COUP**
North American Indian Diorama.



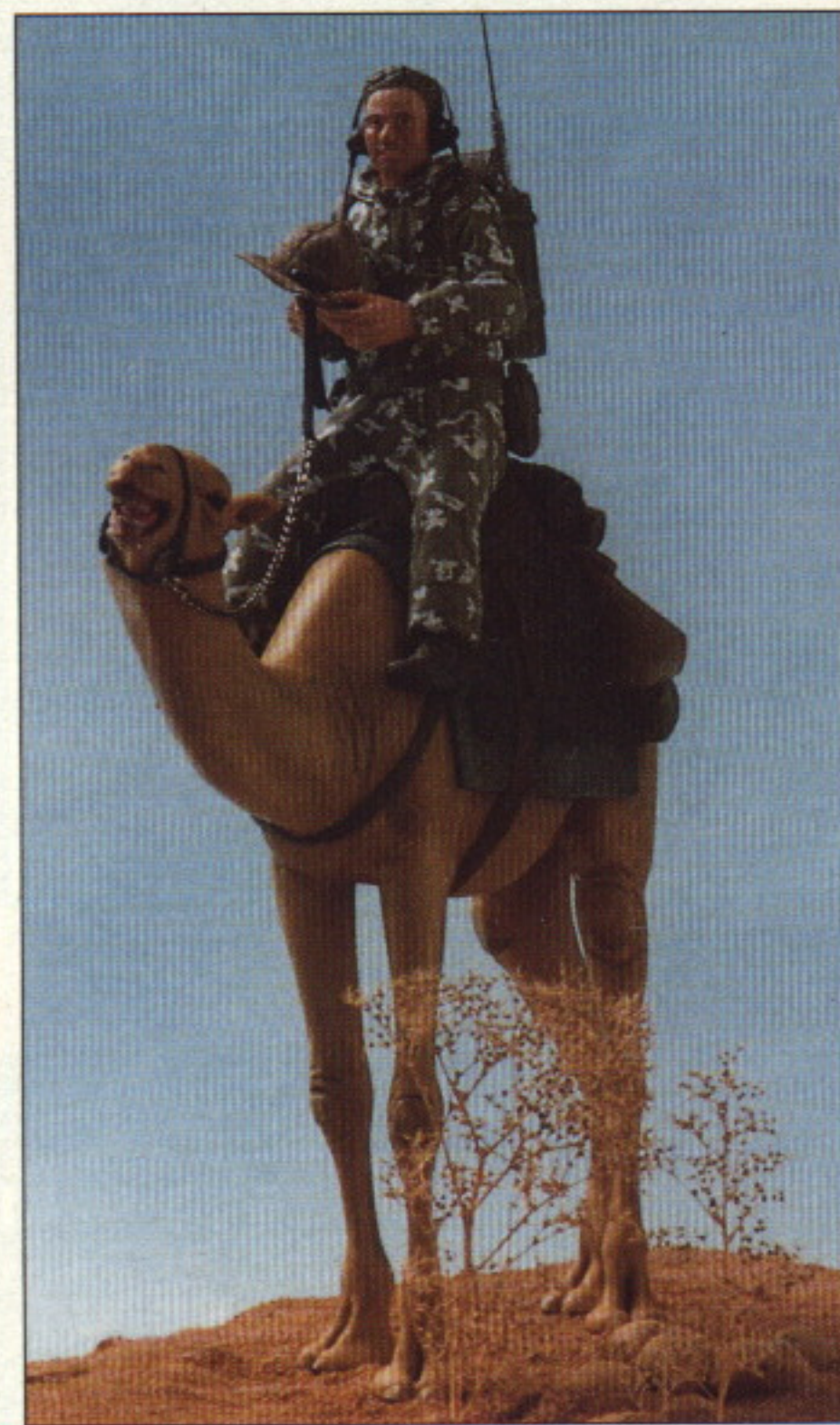
ABOVE: How to improve Academy's M18 kit begins on page 18.

RIGHT: See page 23 for how to convert Verlinden's 120mm Roman Dromedarius to a modern Soviet Army border guard on a camel.

COVER: Latest addition to Mili-Men's "King's Shilling" range is this 120mm kit of a French 8th Hussars Trooper, c.1812 designed by Stuart Hale and assembled and painted by Phil Stutcinkas.

DEPARTMENTS

- 13 NOTICE BOARD**
All the latest news for military modellers.
- 15 READERS' MODELS**
A chance to see your model in colour in the world's leading military modelling magazine.
- 43 OBSERVATION POST**
The monthly news column for wargamers.
- 44 SMALL SCALE SCENE**
Monthly column for military vehicle modellers.
- 46 DESPATCH**
Readers' letters.
- 48 SOLDIER BOX**
A monthly column for collectors of toy soldiers.
- 53 ON PARADE**
Books reviewed.
- 54 "ATTEN-SHUN!"**
New products reviewed.





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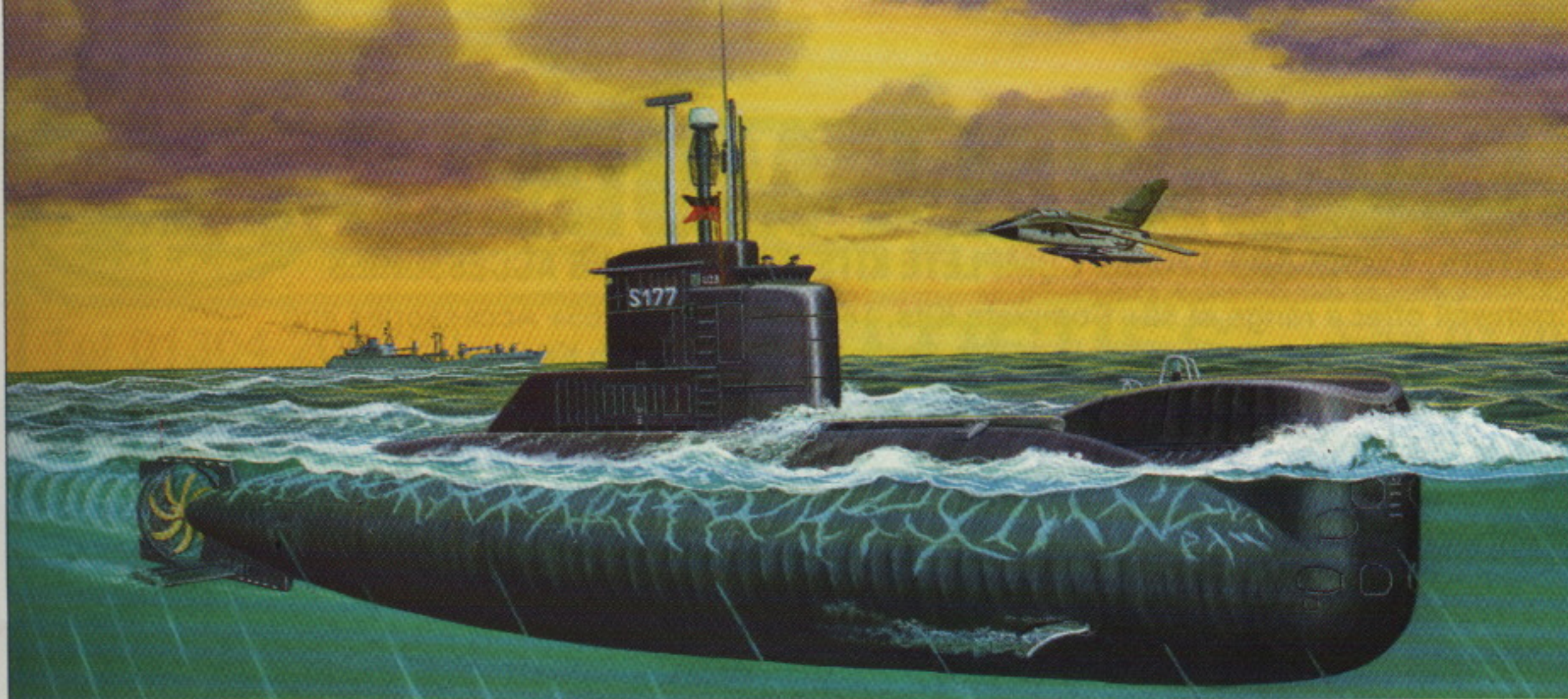


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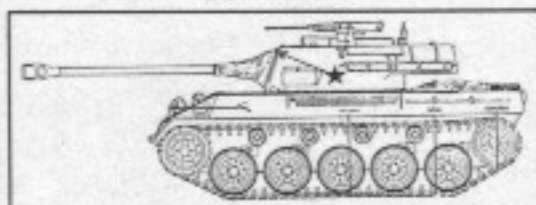
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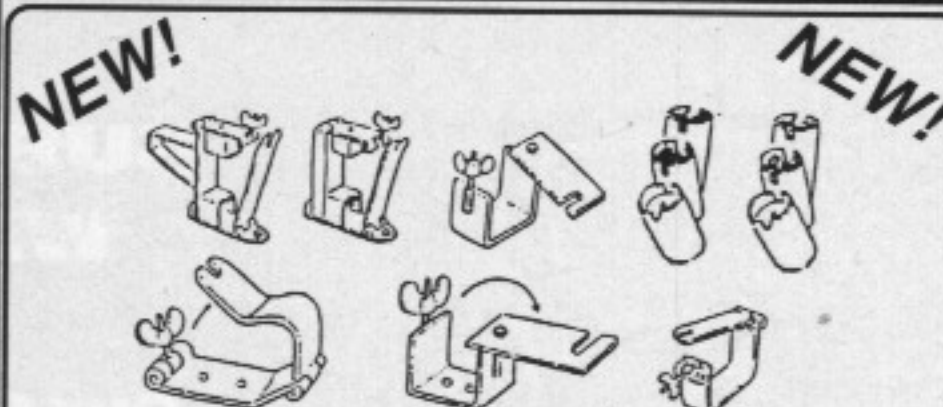
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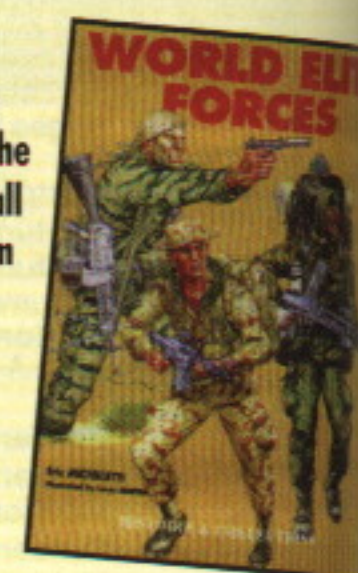
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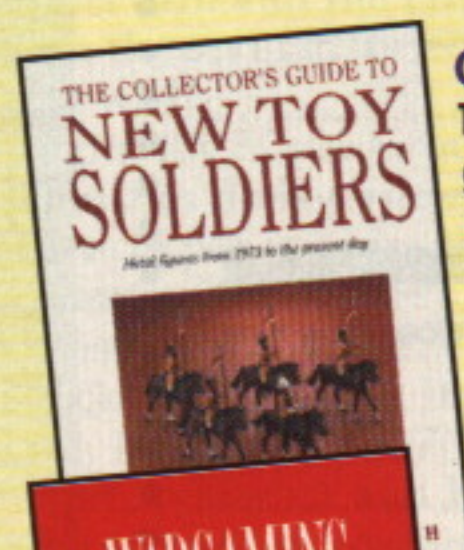
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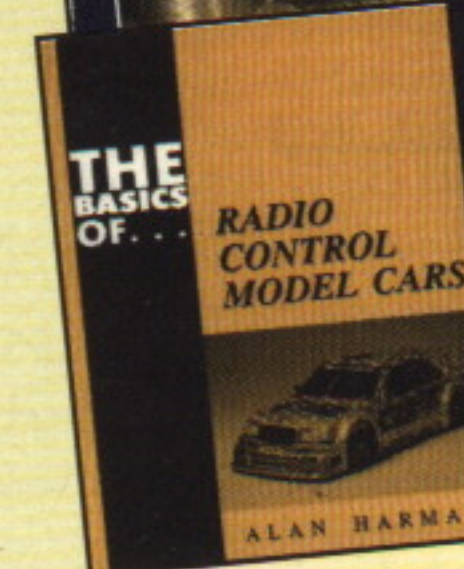
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INFORMATION / DIARY DATES

War Studies

The University of Birmingham is holding War Study classes. The programme is designed as a two-year course with a mixture of evening, day-school and residential week attendance. Participants are asked to undertake private study, critical evaluation of and reflection on their findings, and to maintain a learning journal for the duration of the programme. The learning and assessment techniques include seminar papers, syndicate work, information technology assignments and field reports. There are no written examinations.

All classes will be initially offered at the School of Continuing Studies, The University of Birmingham, 58 Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2RT. The course is open to anyone over the age of 18 and no formal entry qualifications are required. For the year 1997/98 the fee for one year of part time study is £380 (which may be paid in instalments).

Anyone interested should write to The Marketing and Publicity Office at the above address, or telephone 0121 414 5607/7259.

100 Years of Modelling

This year, IMEX will be celebrating the Centenary of both Model Engineer magazine and the Society of Model and Experimental Engineers, together with a number of other Anniversaries, including the 75th of the British Model Flying Association and the 25th of the British Radio Car Association.

All this promises one of the most interesting and exciting events for many years. With thousands of models on display, there will be more competition entries, more clubs, more specialist exhibitors and trade stands and more feature events. The ever-popular Olympian Railway, car track, boating pool, flying hall and SM&EE workshop will be in full swing with demonstrations and helpful advice from acknowledged experts in their fields.

These traditional features will be supported this year by larger and enhanced displays of plastic and military modelling and miniature railway layouts operating under the aegis of their respective national bodies.

At IMEX, the world's premier

modelling exhibition, you will be able to enjoy superlative craftsmanship in the models on display together with a spectacle of thrills, spills and continuous excitement for all the family. Don't miss it. Make a date in your personal and club diaries: 30th December to 4th January, Centennial International Model Engineer Exhibition, Olympia.

Challengers in Bosnia

Richard Stickland would like to point out that the designation of 'Challenger Mark 4' in his article, IFOR Armour in Bosnia was incorrect. Vickers Defence Systems and MoD Census have confirmed that all Challenger MBTs, numbers 64KG78 to 65KG53 were delivered as, and remain, Mark 3. Apologies for any confusion caused.

RAF Halton

The International Model Exhibition takes place at RAF Halton Airfield, Aylesbury, Bucks, on Sunday 12th October between 10am and 4pm. There will be a military modelling competition and display. Admission is £4 adults, and £2 senior citizens and children.

Quebec Modellers

The Quebec Modellers Association (Association des modelistes du Quebec) will present their fifth annual Expo-Contest on Saturday the 4th October from 10am to 4.30pm at the College de Rosemont, 6400, 16th Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. For further information please contact Mr Gilles Menard, President, Association des modelistes du Quebec, 5795, Prince Rupert, Auteuil, Ville De Laval, Que, H7H 1C5 Canada. Tel: (514) 963 2518, or Mr. Denis Roy - (514) 276 0551 - E-mail: d_roy@biblinat.gouv.qc.ca

Russian Army Study

Russian Troops fought all over Europe, at the Battles of Austerlitz, Eylau, Friedland and Borodino and were instrumental in the downfall of Napoleon. David Chandler wrote in his book *On the Napoleonic Wars*, p.181. "Any consideration of the vast canvas of the Napoleonic Wars would be hopelessly incomplete without the consideration of the troops and achievements of 'Holy Russia'.

This study group aims to consider these achievements, not just against France, but also Sweden and the Ottoman Empire, as well as its failures. As well as researching the uniforms and organisation, the group will also study the characteristics of the Russian soldier, his drill and the effects of war on the civilian, or whatever you wish.

To join the Study Group all you have to do is write at least one article per year for the newsletter, 'The Kiwer'. Articles so far include Cossacks, the Russian Imperial Guard, Russian Colours captured at Austerlitz and has reprinted various contemporary accounts concerning the characteristics of the Russian soldier.

With the help of members of the Russian Military Historical Association, it is hoped to put this research into practice, by raising a re-enactment unit, (The St Petersburg Grenadiers) which will be the only Russian regiment in the West.

For more information on the Study Group or the re-enactment regiment write to: Laurence Spring, 12 Puckshill, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2BS.

Italian amalgamation

It has recently been announced that two very well known Italian companies have joined forces. Pegaso Models and J & J Models have decided to form one company with the title of Pegaso Models S.R.L. This is not a 'take-over', but a natural progression of events as the two companies have worked closely together for many years. Piero Julia of 'Di Sandra Coli' is probably the best known metal caster in Italy, working for nearly all the Italian figure producers and also others in Spain and elsewhere. Di Sandra Coli also owned J & J Models, with some of the better most recent figures being sculpted by Andrea Julia, the son of Piero Julia.

The two partners in the new company will be Luca Marchetti, of Pegaso Models and Andrea Julia. All models will now be listed under the Pegaso Models SRL banner.

A new Pegaso list of figures is available from Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ on receipt of a stamped self addressed envelope.

Firepower and Mobility

Due to the enormous success of last year's displays, The Tank Museum at Bovington, Dorset, is launching a brand new programme of spectacular 'Tank Firepower and Mobility Displays' this summer.

The Free displays start on 3rd July and continue throughout July, August and September on Thursdays at 12 noon. Each show will feature both heavy tanks and other armoured vehicles being put through their earth-shaking paces in choreographed pitched battles. The displays are accompanied by a running commentary, sound effects and spectacular pyrotechnics.

A highly popular return to the display is the 'conscript' of unsuspecting visitors, who are chosen from the crowd to lead the attack. After parade-ground style training, the 'conscripts' are propelled into the thick of the action inside an armoured personnel carrier.

In order to cope with visitor demand this year, an extra weekly 'Firepower and Mobility' display will be staged on Fridays at 12 noon throughout August.

In celebration of the first display of the season on 3rd July, the programme on the day will be launched by a nationally renowned 20-strong marching band of pipes and drums from the Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officers' Training Corps.

Allied with this brand new display programme, from 1st July the Museum will also be offering the public the opportunity to experience the thrill of a ride in an armoured vehicle. Rides will be available every day except Saturdays throughout the summer season for £1.50 per person. Public enquiries tel: 01929 405096.

Belgian 'Model Day'

MOVELEO (*Modelbouw Vereniging Leopoldsborg*) is holding a modelling day on 30th November at Buurthuis Heppen, Leopoldsborg, Belgium. This will include a modelling contest with a total of 24 categories, and five special trophies, a modelling show, plus club demonstrations and the possibility to exchange kits and books, etc. For further details contact Marc Mercier, 17 Malakofflaan, B-3970 Leopoldsborg, Belgium - tel: 011 348785.

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- Upgrade Tamiya's JS-3 into a JS-3M.
- Modelling a German WWI cameraman in 120mm.
- Modelling Horatio Nelson in 120mm.
- Show reports - East of Scotland and SCAHMS.
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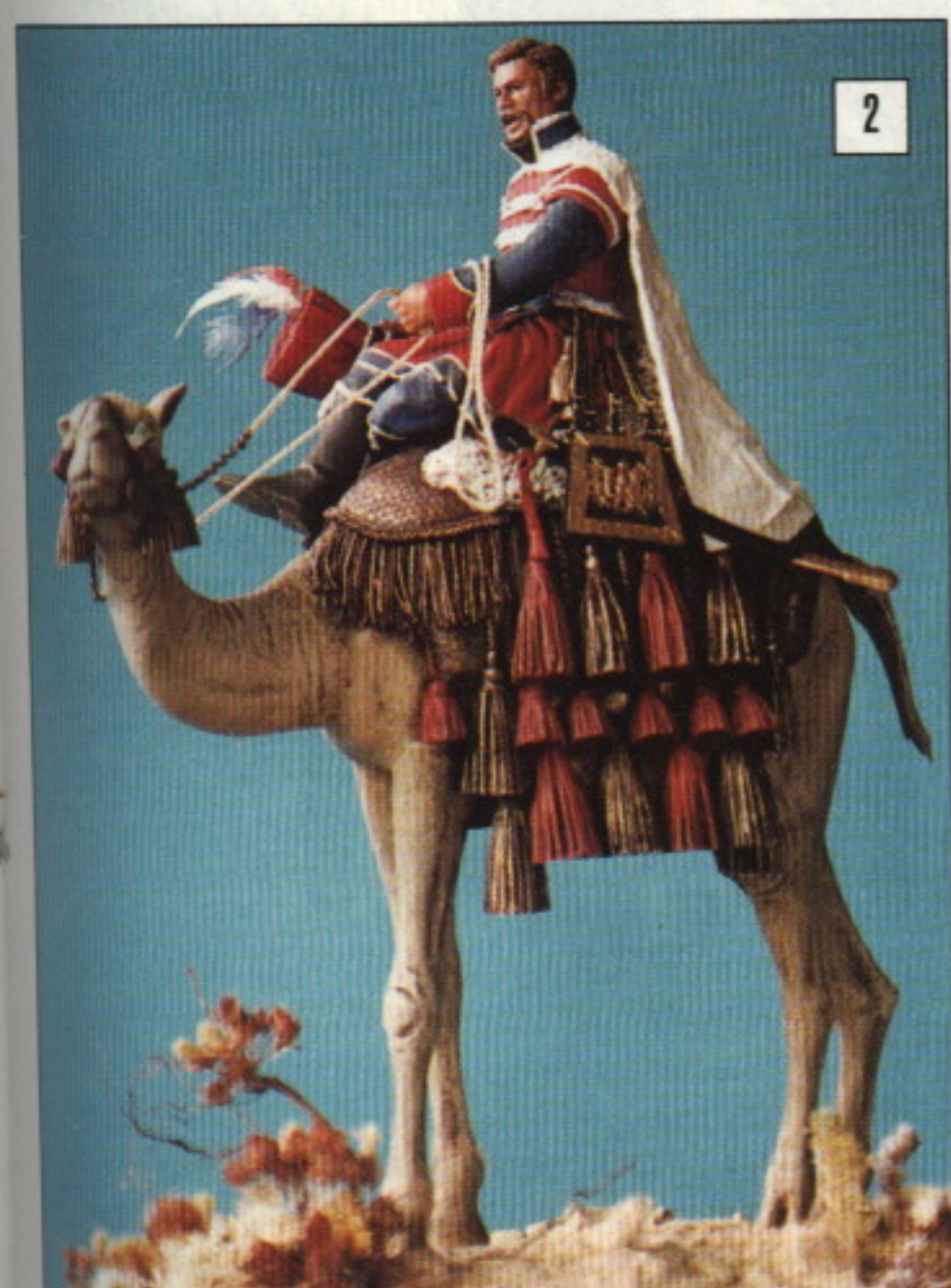
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PLEASE NOTE: we are now unable to return photographs submitted for the Readers' Models page. Ensure you do not send originals or negatives, but please do include your name and address, plus a description of the model.

READERS' MODELS

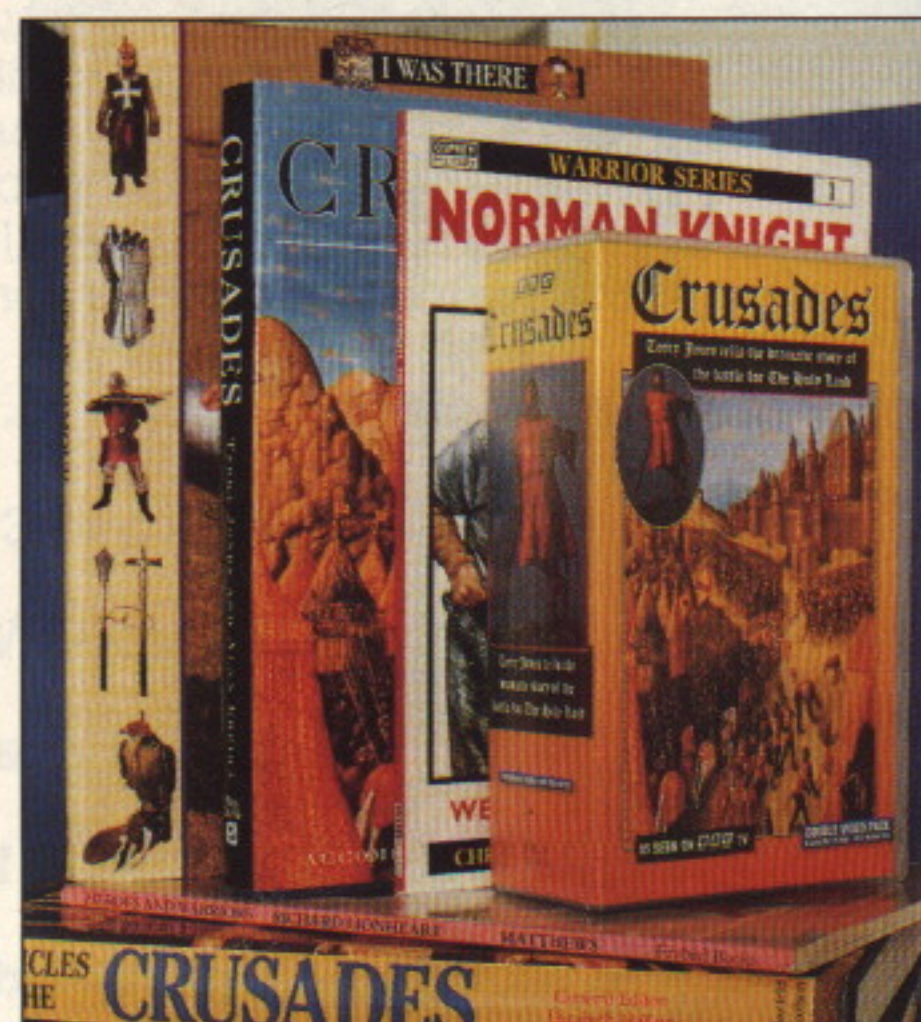
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1. Mr I. Schmidt converts 120mm Verlinden Productions' figure kits, swapping parts between models to obtain different poses. Mr Schmidt lives in Copenhagen, Denmark. 2. Officer of the French Dromedary Regiment, Egypt c.1800 modelled by Ben Dekker uses a 120mm Verlinden Productions' camel from the Jordan Desert Patrol, the rest being built from scratch. The model is based on a Knötel print, painted with Humbrol enamels and photographed by A. Schreuder. Ben Dekker lives in the Netherlands. 3. Kenneth Yeo Chye Whatt, who lives in the Republic of Singapore, reproduced Dragon Model's 1:35 scale Afrika Korps figures boxtop illustration using Dragon figures and accessories, but used replacement Hornet heads. 4. Rowland Rowley painted Wolf Models 1:9 scale 95th Rifleman bust. 5. Dragon Models' 1:16 scale German fallschirmjäger painted in enamels with artists' oil colours for face and hands by Mr J. Ford. 6. Red Lancers 1810-15 by Italian Reader Tiepolo Carlo Maria.

Mike Blank describes how he scratch built a 120mm model of King Richard I

Photos of the finished figure, painted with Humbrol enamels and artists' oil colours were taken by Bill Horan.



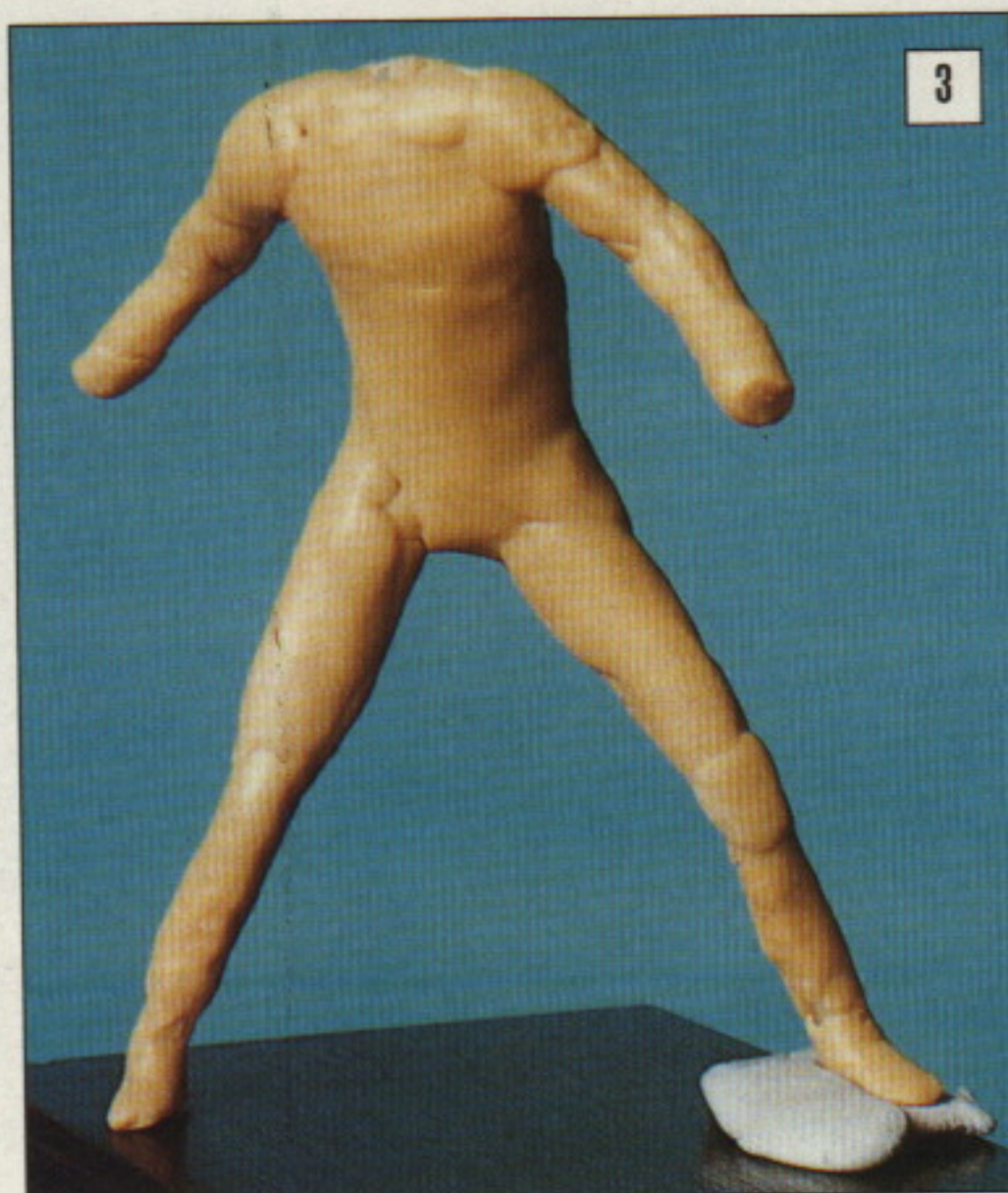
More tools of the trade. Yellow and blue putty is Duro.



ABOVE: Some of the references used for building this figure.

LEFT: The Stickman can be posed to virtually any position the human body can assume.

The Making of Lionheart



1. Shield made from plastic card. Rivets from punch and die set. 2. Sculpting tools made from sanded down toothpicks. Several sizes are used. 3. A built up body with A & B putty over the 'Stickman' armature. 4. Sculpted arm with mail using the tool as described in text.

Like most modellers I have special projects that I seem to come back to and re-do again with hopefully, better results. This is why I scratch built a 120mm figure of Richard I, *Coeur de Lion*. Actually, I have modelled this famous Crusader King several times before, but I still have enough inspiration for some more attempts!

I will not get into the history about this man, as a lot has been written about him, but I believe we can sum him up as being a bad King and a magnificent soldier. It's all too easy to get caught in myths and legends and to forget the actual person behind it all, with all his 'rights' and 'wrongs'.

For this project I did a lot of research about Richard. My figure was to depict him at the siege of Acre in 1191, being part of the relief force and the leader of the third crusade. (Philip of France was the other crusader leader, but in the shadow of the charismatic born leader, Richard). Right from the start I wanted to show Richard in a pose depicting walking down a destroyed part of a wall. Richard, being a determined person, I decided I would depict walking straight towards the enemy, not stopping for anything.

I strongly believe a 'body language' should be incorporated when modelling figures, as we can show several sides of a person. It may be aggressive and alert (as in this case) or laid back and relaxed. All this adds to the character of your figure and adds a lot of personality. There's nothing more boring in this hobby than seeing a well-painted and detailed figure with a face and character of a mannequin!

When scratch building a figure the most important part is, by far, the anatomy. Forget any fancy details and concentrate on the anatomy and pose first, then do all the detailing you want. First an armature is built up and set in the pose you desire. I personally use the plastic armatures produced by Alec Tiranti called 'Stickman'. It is very easy to use, just drop some super glue into the joints after you have decided on the pose and build up a naked body onto the armature.

Always use your references when modelling miniature anatomy. A good piece of advice is to look at yourself in the mirror, adopting the pose you intend for your figure. You can, of course, also ask someone else to

criticise your work. Most people have a trained eye for anatomy.

I have listed some of the parts of this figure what they are made from and how I made them.

Helmet

I used plastic card to make the helmet. The face mask was made from Duro and when fully cured, the eye slits and air holes were carefully cut out with a scalpel. Duro was perfect for this as it cuts very easily, giving very clean and straight cuts. All studs were made with plastic card and a 'punch and die' set.

Chain mail (mail hauberk)

A special tool was made for this task. Inside a small tube, an even smaller rod was inserted and glued in place. When impressed into putty this tool will leave a ring in relief. I find this to be superior and more accurate than the more 'normal' way of using a cut-off tube leaving 'C' shapes going inwards. The rings will be, admittedly, a little too big to be in scale, but it does look the part giving the appearance of chain mail.

Instead of using A & B putty (which cured too fast for this task), I used Supersculpy, an American clay made for miniature work which is cured by baking it in an oven. Using this clay gives me unlimited time when producing all those rings for the mail. Care was taken to show the weight of chain mail hanging down, leaving very few folds indeed. For the smaller areas, however, I used Duro as I had sufficient time to work on it before it cured.

Shield, Leather Strap, Sword Blade and Scabbard

All were made from various thicknesses of plastic card with details from Duro.

Surcoat, Trousers and Shoes

Were made from A & B putty. A sharpened toothpick was used to form the creases and folds. The shoe strings were rolled-out from Duro putty and glued into place.

I made moulds of the kit parts and pro-

duced resin castings from them. These were cleaned up and primed using Floquil's grey spray primer. If you have not tried this product, please do! It's by far the best primer I've ever tried, leaving a dead flat surface without any loss of detail.

Painting

The figure was painted using Humbrol enamels with small amounts of oil paints (Alizarin Crimson, Lamp Black, Burnt Umber) to deepen some shadows. A pattern was painted on the surcoat which was so subtle that it hardly shows! This gave however, a faded look which suited the subject. All seams and tears in the clothing were painted with various highlights and shadows. The leather straps were coated with satin varnish (water-based) to add some texture and 'life'. This satin varnish was also applied to the helmet and shield to impart a 'painted' effect. Note the chips and marks on the helmet using a 'steel colour' mixed from silver and gloss black. The shield was painted with the heraldry of Normandy, Richard's native area.

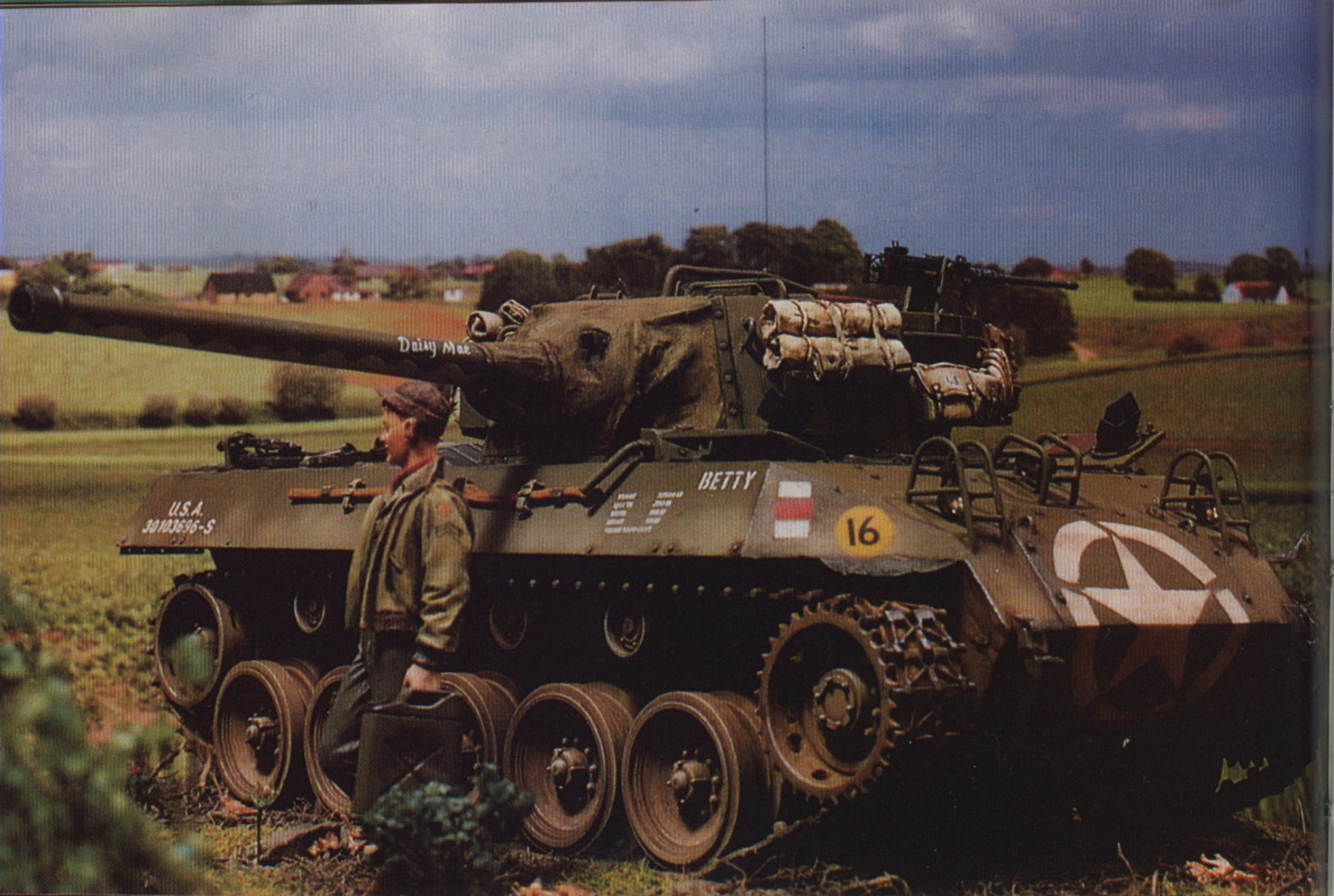
Much of this figure is based on the BBC series, *Crusades* which shows some very accurate equipment and costumes. If you have not seen this fantastic production and have some interest in the crusades, you're in for a real treat! Very highly recommended! We cannot say exactly what Richard I looked like during the third crusade.

The figure is an example how he might have appeared in typical late 12th century equipment. The figure was entered at the last SCAHMS show in California, which I attended in March, and I was honoured to receive a Gold Medal for it in the Open Class.

This is my fifth version of this famous Crusader King and somehow, I know there will probably be another one in the future!

Availability

For 'Stickman' Jointed Figure Armatures, (packet of two 100mm £6.54), moulding rubbers, white metal, Milliput etc. In fact, everything for the modeller from Alec Tiranti Ltd., 70 High Street, Theale, Reading RG7 5AR. Tel: 0118 930 2775. Fax 0118 932 3487.



Academy's Hellcat

Steve Zaloga gets to grips with a new 1:35 scale kit of the US M18 US tank destroyer

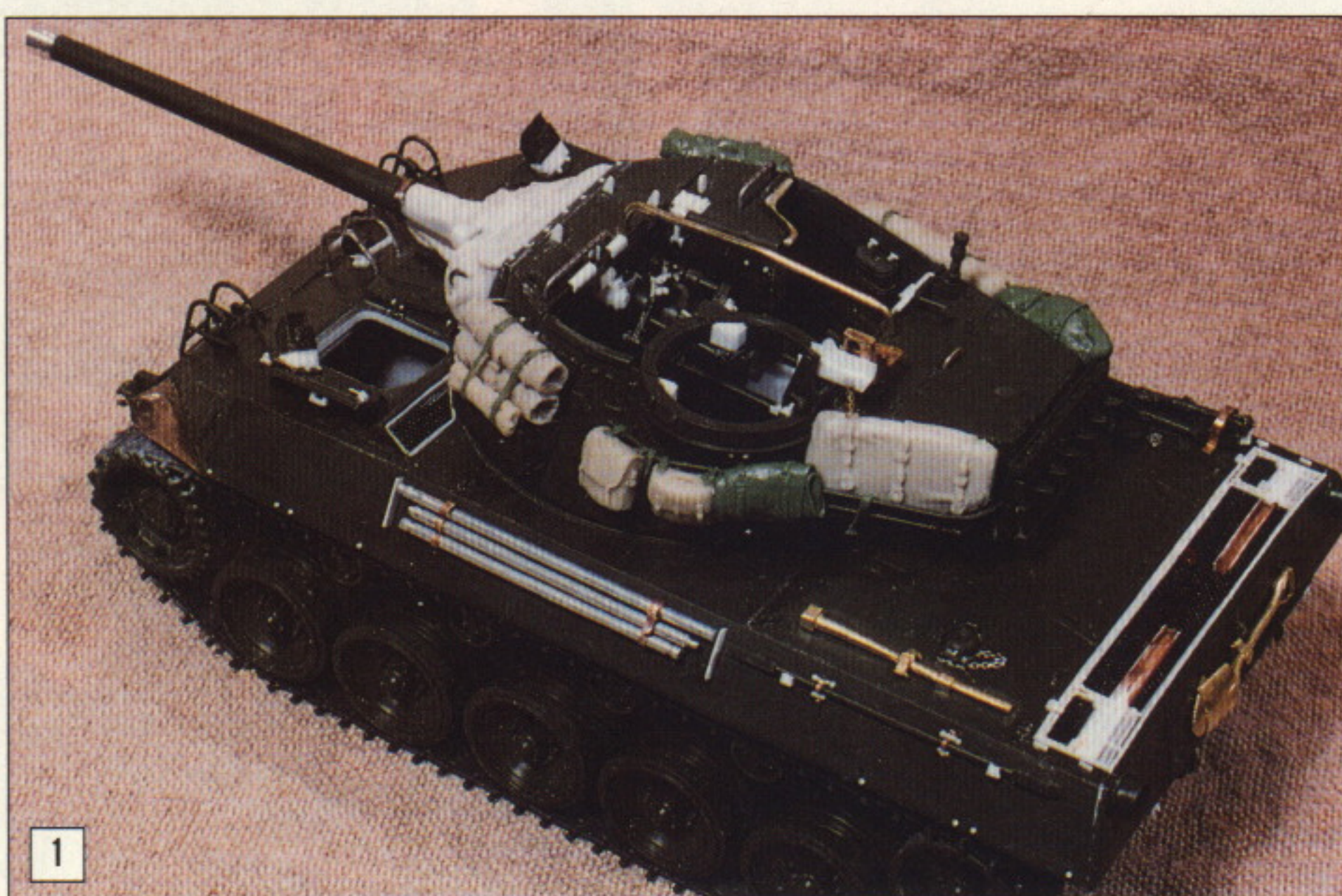
There have been few new kits of US World War Two armoured vehicles over the past few years, so I was keen to hear that an M18 Hellcat tank destroyer was due.

The first to arrive is the Academy/Minicraft kit which reached the States in May 1997, and another kit is also scheduled from AFV Club. Sad to say, the Academy kit is not up to current armour kit standards, but it can be built up into a very nice model with a bit of extra work.

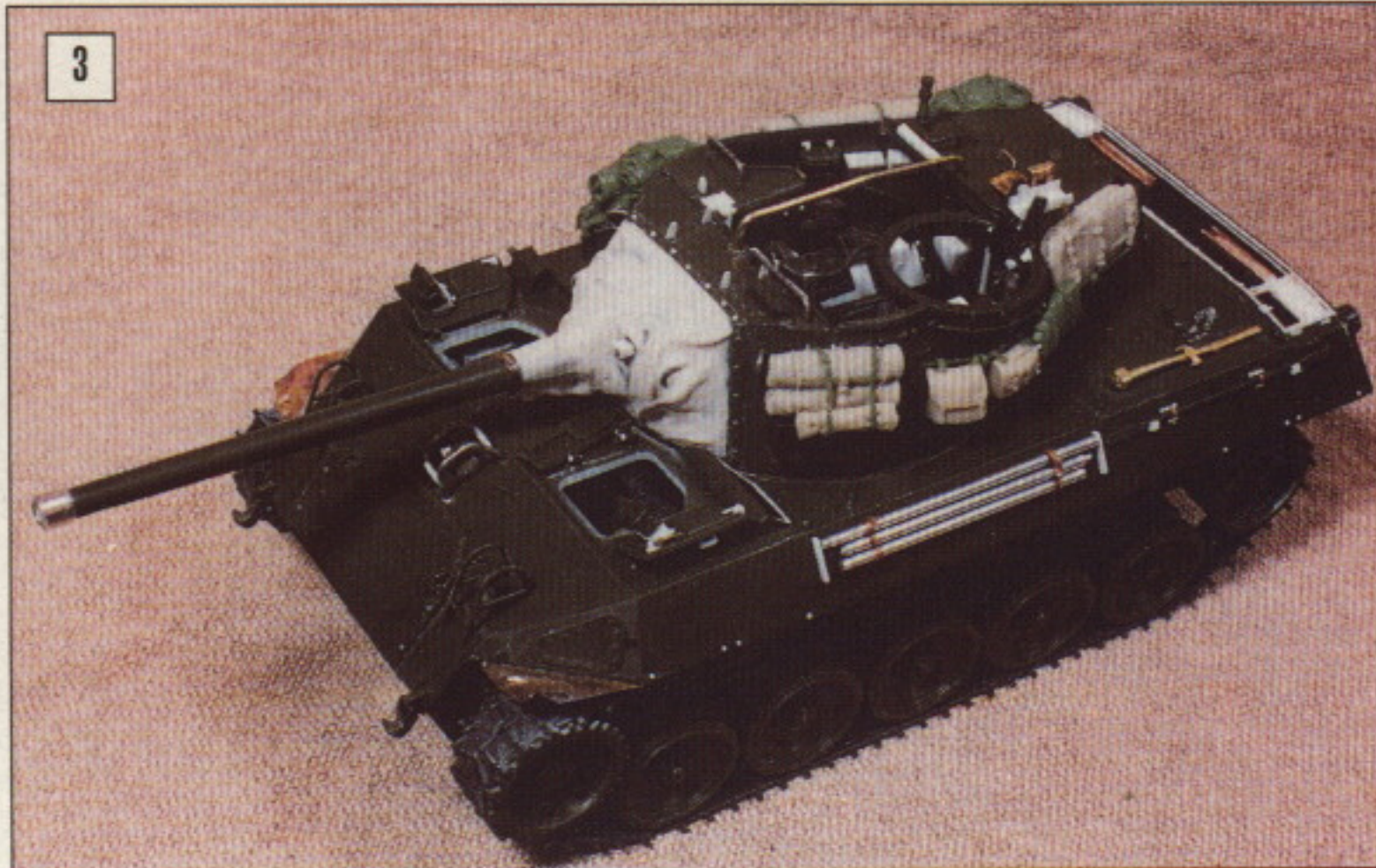
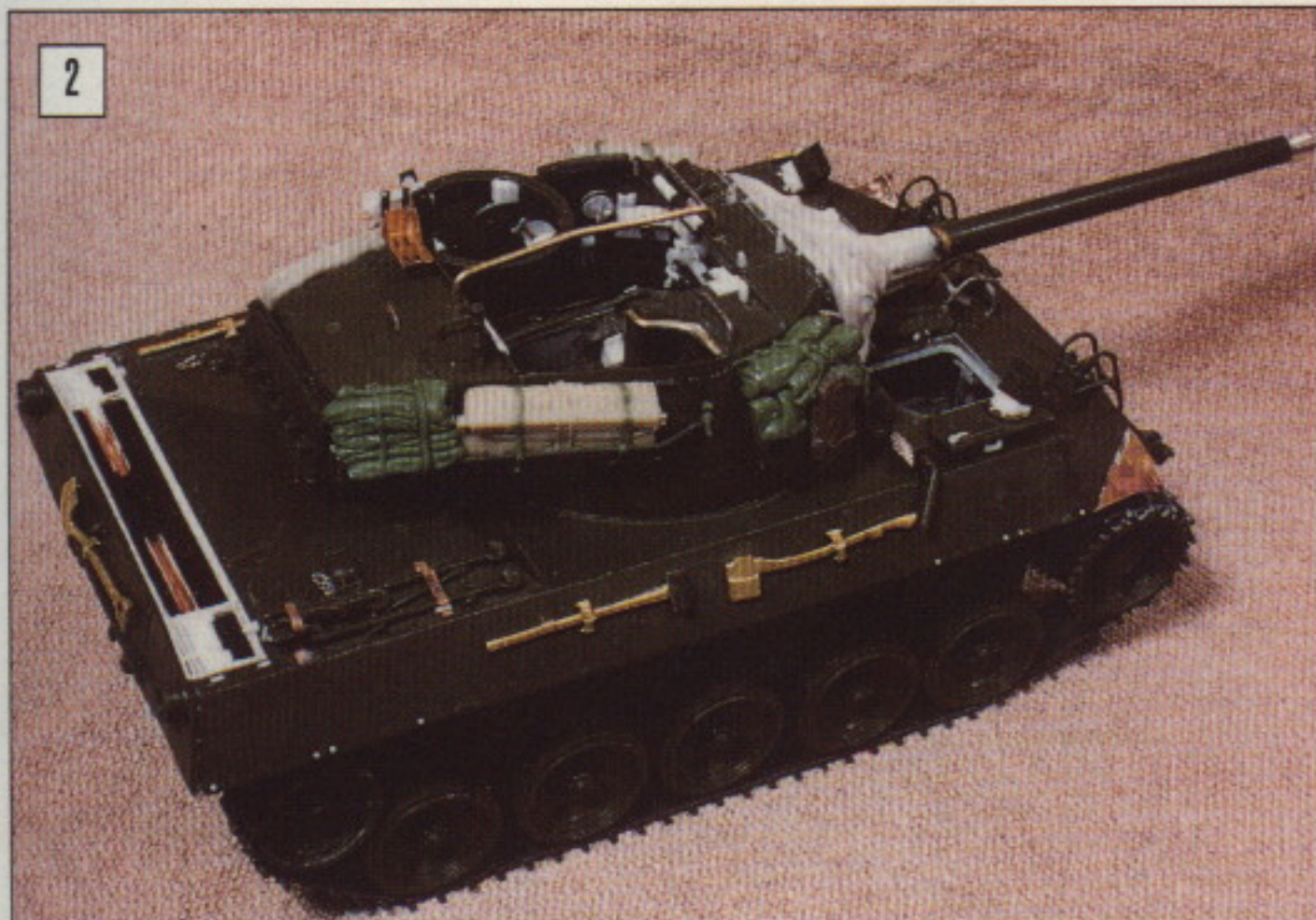
History

The M18 is one of the lesser known US tank destroyers of WWII. It was the only one built from the ground up with tank destroyer tactics in mind; the others such as the M10 were conversions of existing chassis. The M18 accented speed and firepower over armour protection, having the same 76mm gun as the later M4 Sherman tank, but in a vehicle nearly 10 tons lighter. Production began in June 1943 and ran through October 1944 with some 2,507 manufactured. The first batch of 685 vehicles were returned to the factory for rebuilding, and 640 became M39 armoured utility vehicles. Although a handful of M18s were committed to action at Anzio in 1944, the M18 did not see widespread deployment until the Normandy invasion in June 1944.

By the late summer of 1944, there were five tank destroyer battalions in France with the M18, and it was later used in the Italian theatre and also in the Pacific. The M18 was popular with its crews due to its mobility. Indeed it was the fastest tracked combat vehicle of the US Army during the war. It was less popular due to its unimpressive armour, a trait of all wartime tank destroyers. This was due to mainly to the inherent flaws in the unrealistic US Army tank destroyer



1. An overall view of the completed, but unpainted model. The turret stowage in tan colour resin is from the Verlinden range; while the green is stowage sculpted from Kneadatite epoxy putty.



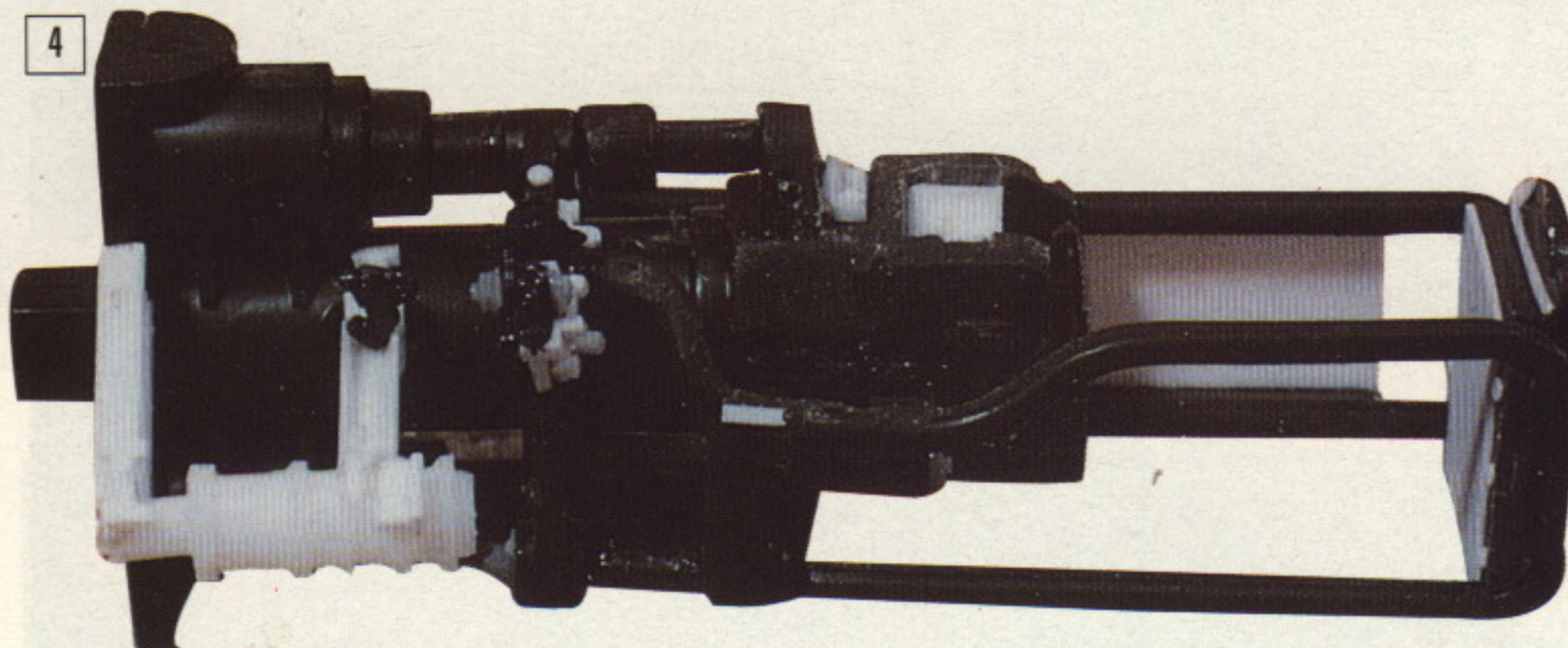
doctrine. As often as not, the M18 was used in roles for which it was not intended such as knocking out pillboxes while supporting infantry battalions.

During the summer 1944 campaign, many M18 companies were used to provide security to rear area truck convoys against roving bands of German stragglers where the M18 was fast enough to keep up with the truck supply columns.

In the hands of skilled crews, the M18 could be a very lethal weapon as was so aptly demonstrated by the 704th Tank Destroyer Battalion during the September 1944 fighting when the US 4th Armoured Division crushed the German panzer counterattack at Arracourt in the Lorraine. The Battalion destroyed 33 German tanks and two assault guns for the loss of five M18s. The M18 was withdrawn from US service after the war, but exported in some numbers. Former Yugoslav Army vehicles were used in the fighting in Bosnia in the early 1990s.

The Academy kit

On first looking over the Academy kit, my first impression was that it resembled the armour kits of the early 1970s such as older Tamiya and Peerless/Max kits. The kit is provided with motorising features which



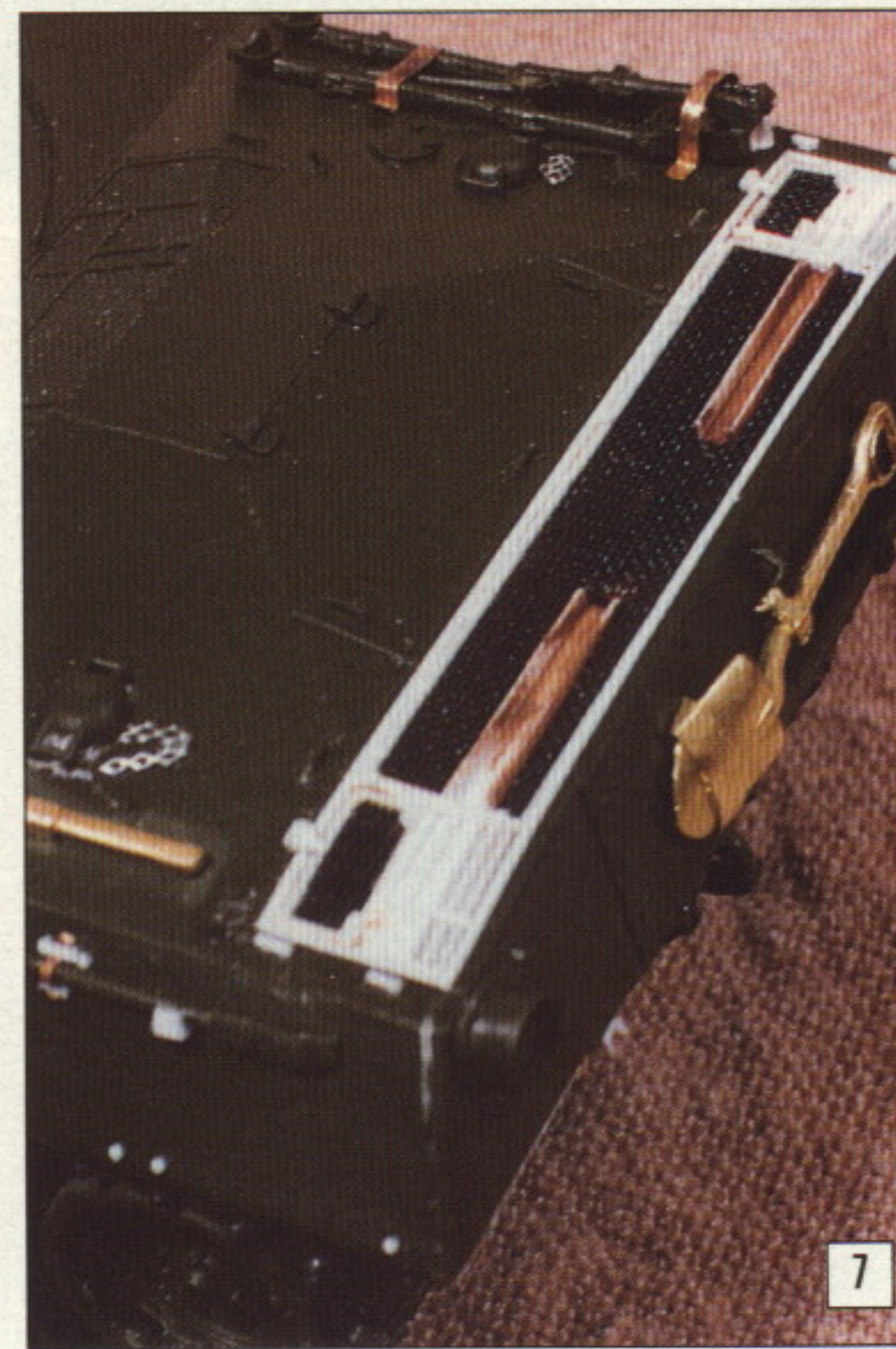
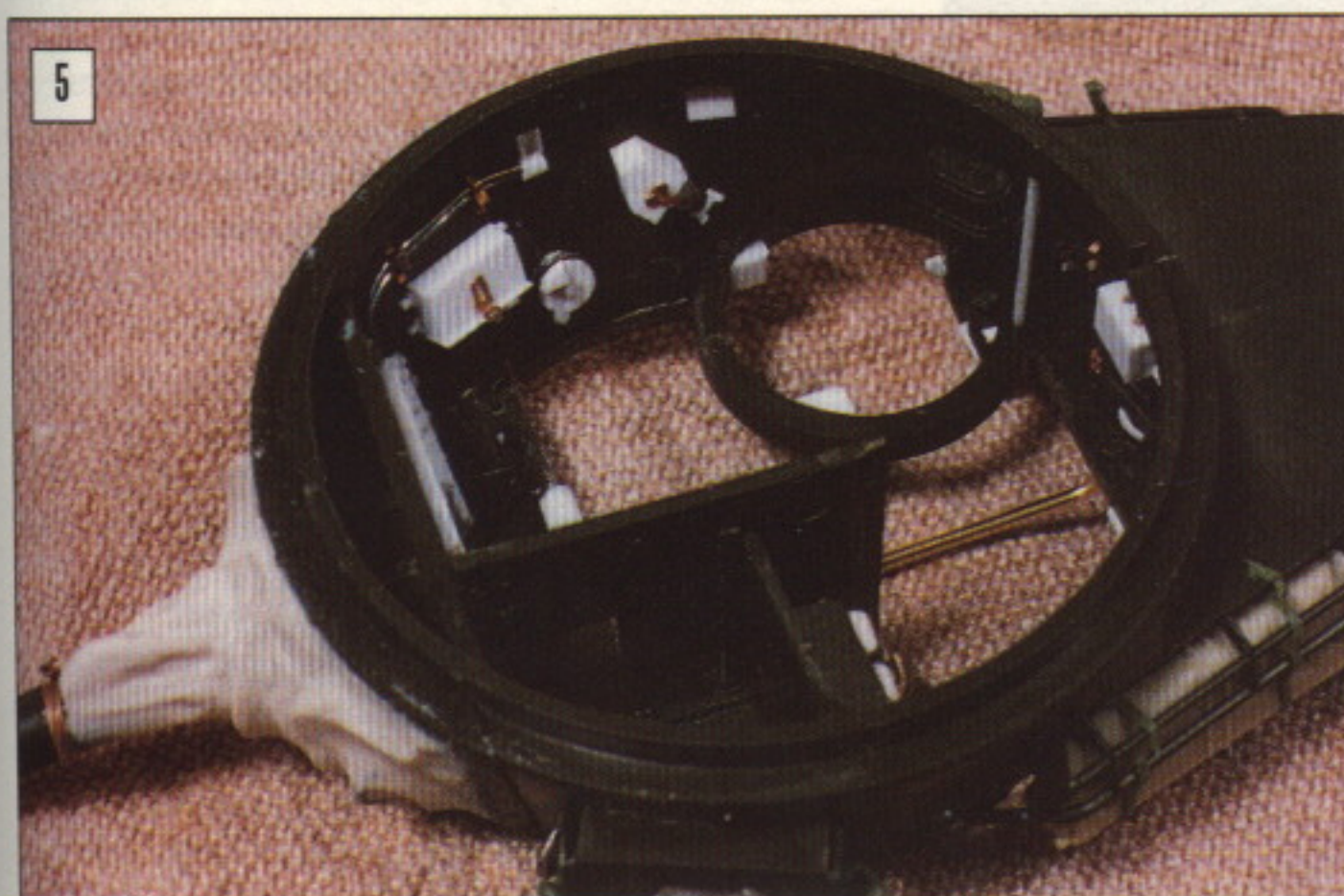
leads to the expected gaps in the hull floor. The moulding quality is also reminiscent of older kits, having more sink marks, part fit problems, and other minor problems than contemporary Tamiya or Dragon kits.

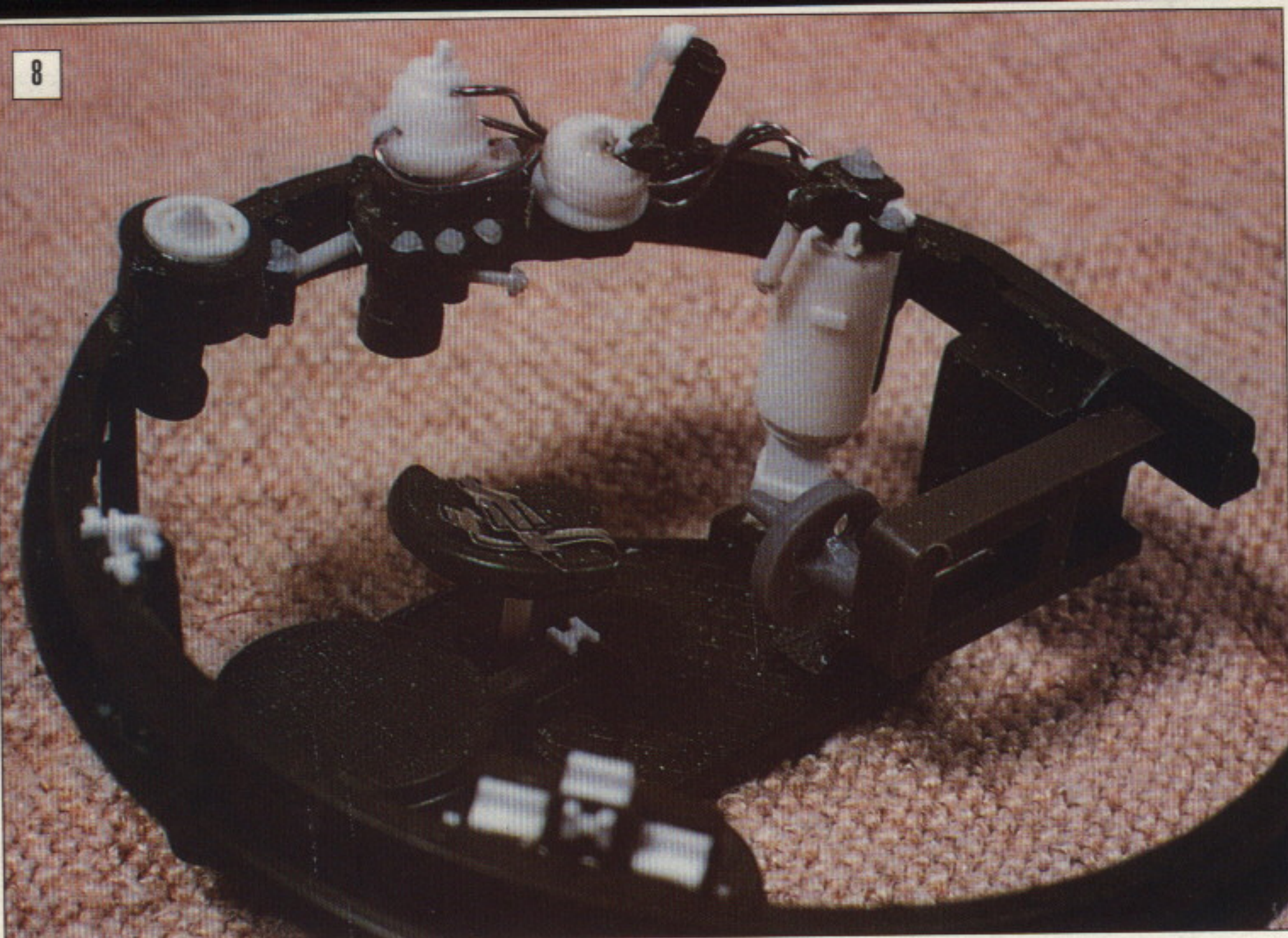
On the positive side, Academy has made some effort to provide extensive interior detail, and there is also a generous supply of spare parts such as ammunition and ammunition cases. The kit provides both a flexible vinyl tracks and styrene plastic tracks in the Italeri strip-and-link (link and length) fashion.

Before starting the kit, it is a good idea to do some planning regarding the level of interior detail desired. Although Academy has provided a fair amount of interior detail, real armoured vehicles are so filled with cabling, stowage and other detail that it is unrealistic to expect too much in a mass-market kit. I decided to limit the hull interior detail to some modest enhancements, and to concentrate my attention on adding detail to the more visible turret interior.

An essential reference for anyone planning to add detail to this kit is the 'Military

2. An overall view of the completed model from the right side. At this stage, the model interior has been painted. 3. This view shows the canvas mantlet cover added to the model using epoxy putty. The front fenders were fabricated from annealed brass sheet and crumpled to look like damage. 4. A close-up view of the 76mm gun. The main work on this component was the gunner's telescopic sight and quadrant, as well as the sliding breech block. 5. A view of the turret upside down shows some of the interior stowage added to the model. This was made mainly from plastic stock, with some details from spare photo-etched brass sets. 6. To correct the rear deck screening, a basic tub was created on which to attach the screening. In addition, a rudimentary muffler layout was added since it can be seen through the screening. 7. After the tub interior was painted a dull brown colour, the screening was added and fixed in place with thin 10-thou styrene strip.





Ordnance Special No. 17' M18 Gun Motor Carriage Hellcat by Ron Lehman and Jeff McKaughan. This is reasonably priced and provides many useful photos and drawings. More extensive detail information can be found in US Army technical manuals such as TM9-755 and TM9-1308.

The Academy kit comes with the exposed sponson ammunition moulded into sponson floors. I scraped this off with files, and fabricated a pair of sponson ammunition racks, using the ammunition provided in the kit. Actually, little of this is visible once the turret is in place. I added some small detail to the hull interior, especially the wiring on the fire-wall which is visible when the turret is installed.

The most serious detail problem with the kit is the portrayal of the rear engine deck screening. This is shown as fine diamond shaped screen. Unfortunately, the actual deck used coarse square screening and had much more elaborate detail over the mufflers. I expect that some after-market companies will release photo-etched brass sets to correct this, but I didn't have any when building my kit.

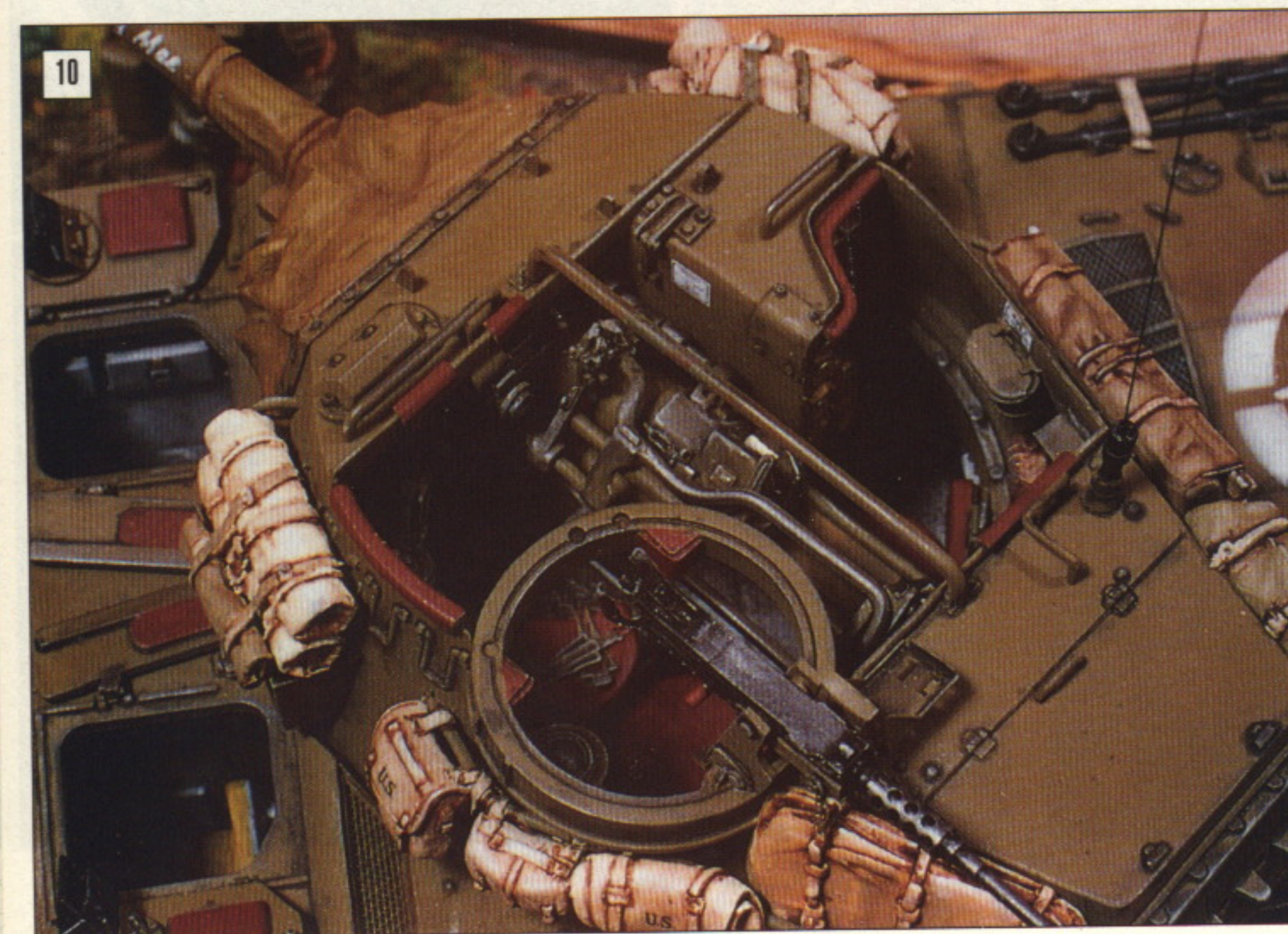
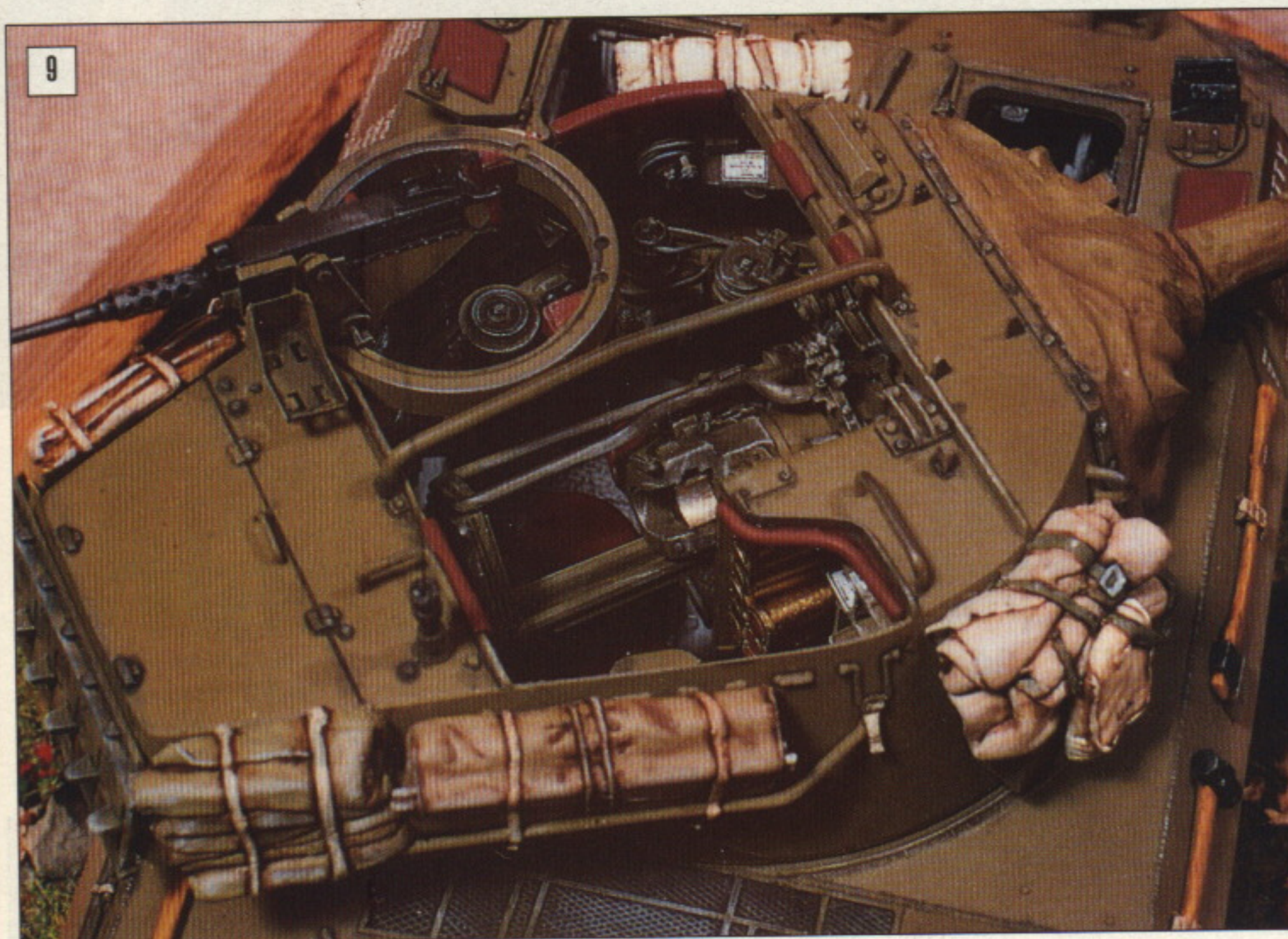
I cut out the screened area, and fabricated a tub underneath it from sheet plastic. This was done partly to create a stable platform to attach screening, but also to provide an easy way to include some rudimentary muffler detail which can be partly seen through the screen. I used some left-over Tamiya screen from another kit. This is tedious, demanding work, and many modellers may wish to either ignore the problem, or to wait for a photo-etched set.

I ignored the grille work under the turret bustle as it is not very evident on the finished model, it looks good 'as-is', and would be very difficult to replace. Two other areas can use screening. There is a vent for the transmission behind the front left roof hatch, and another vent (part C20). I hollowed these out, and put screen in them. With these problems solved, I painted the hull interior and sealed up the hull.

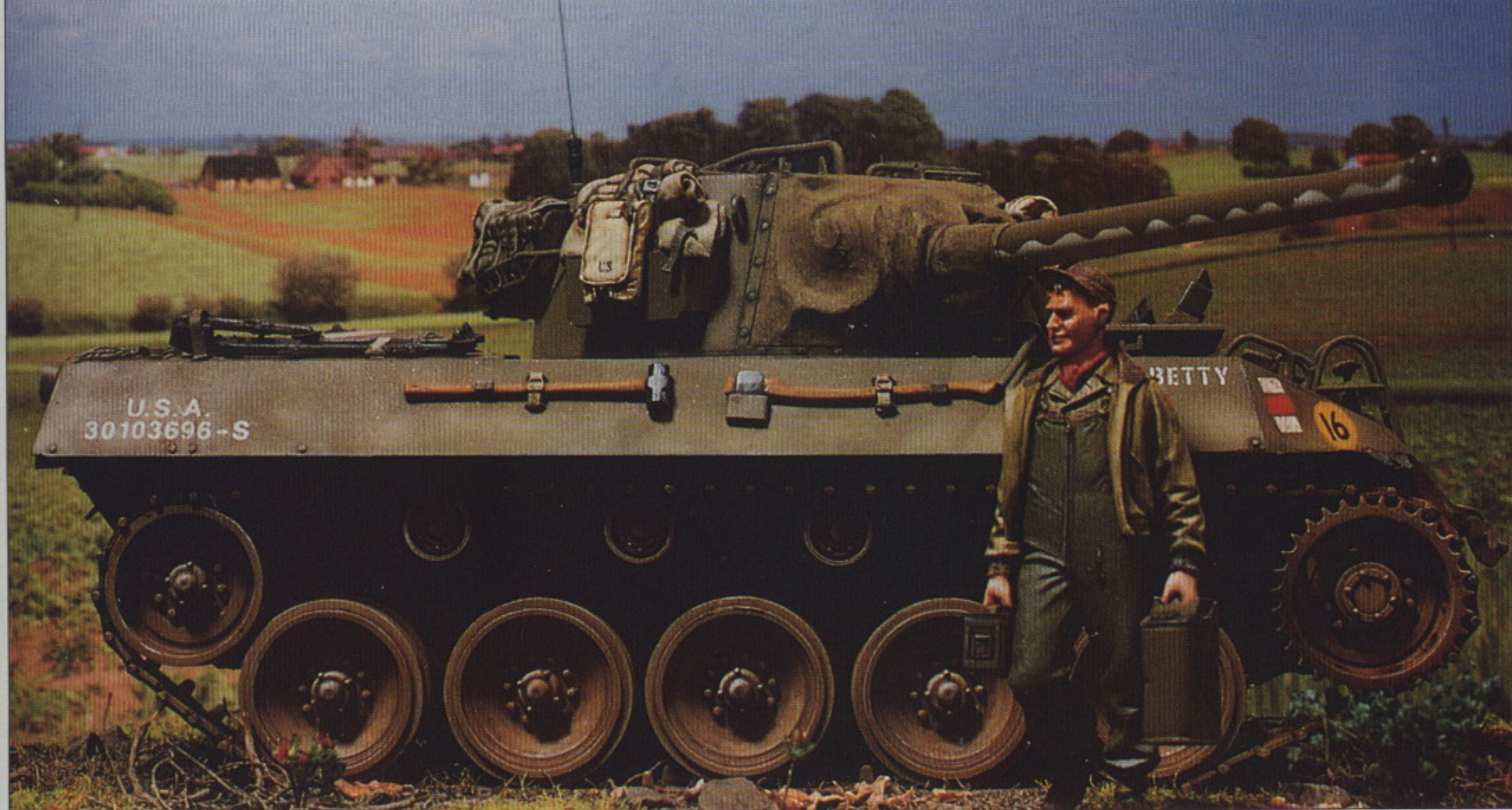
I decided against using the extensive sand-screens provided with the kit. Judging from combat photos, these were quickly lost or removed by their crews. Instead, I fabricated a beat-up set of stub fenders for the hull front from some annealed brass sheet. Annealing sheet brass by placing it, held in pliers, over the kitchen gas stove, or by applying some other intense heat source, such as a mini gas torch, softens the metal and makes it easier to bend. It is easier to use brass sheet to represent deformed metal panels than plastic sheet.

The suspension posed few problems. I used the styrene plastic tracks which went together quite well.

I next turned my attention to the turret. The main problem with the turret is that the interior detail provided is inadequate. The components provided, including the seats, floor, turret ring and some of the controls, are usable. However, the kit lacks most of the



8. The gunner's controls were heavily rebuilt from plastic rod and sheet to more accurately depict the traverse equipment and hydraulic system. 9. Extra details have been added to the turret interior which lends a much more detailed and 'busy' look to it. Note the replaced .50 cal Browning machine-gun. 10. Another look inside the turret. The driver and co-driver's hatchways are open and show additional details.



The Academy kit with additions and alterations builds up into an attractive model. Steve photographed his M18 against a photograph backdrop and obtained the realistic results seen in his photos.

stowage on the turret walls, it lacks the gunner's telescopic sight and quadrant, and some of the parts need considerable extra detail.

Starting with the gun breech, the kit does not provide a representation of the sliding breech block itself. I fabricated one from sheet plastic, but installed it after painting as it is a bright polished metal colour. I replaced the thick panel on the gun recoil guard (part H6) and rebuilt the base of the gun guard (part H2). I then fabricated the M9 elevation quadrant and the gunner's telescope from sheet plastic and rod. I rebuilt most of the gunner's turret controls (H14, H24, H31, H27) as they are too simple in appearance.

Fortunately, the turret ring is separate, and this assembly can be left off until after painting, making it easier to get access to the turret. I then added a considerable amount of small detail around the turret walls, based on the references I mentioned earlier. I used the basic shell of the SCR-610 radio provided in the kit (H38-40), but completely re-detailed the face and added the electrical connections on the left side.

The turret exterior can also use a great deal of attention. I didn't care for the representation of the gun travel lock on the turret roof (C34) and replaced it with the earlier pattern B300216 type found on the first 1,857 vehicles, and more common on summer 1944 vehicles in combat. I replaced the roof tarp supports (C31, C32, G8) with brass or aluminium rod. The stowage containers for the driver's hood covers (G18-19) should have drainage channels on the bottom corners which I cut out using a saw and file.

The kit comes with two mantlets, a plain one (G13) and one with a representation of the canvas mantlet cover (G14). I didn't care for the canvas mantlet cover provided in the kit, so I used the plain G13 part and the other assemblies, and then added my own canvas cover using epoxy putty. I used Atlas epoxy putty for this, which is basically similar to Milliput, though a bit softer. I started by covering the mantlet completely. Once this was done, I rolled out some more putty into small snake-like pieces. I attached these to the putty cover to represent folds in the canvas, and then blended them in using a stiff brush and water.



The kit gun allows the modeller to choose either the M1A1 76mm gun using a simple barrel end (C49) or the later M1A1C or M1A2 guns with the M2 muzzle brake. I wanted to depict my vehicle with the collar for the M2 muzzle brake, but without the muzzle brake itself fitted. Many tank destroyer crews were unhappy with the muzzle brake as they felt that it led to US troops mistaking their vehicle for a German tank. Up to June-July 1944, US tanks were not fitted with muzzle brakes, and this became a common identification aid for distinguishing German armoured vehicles. I made the collar on a lathe from a piece of aluminium rod, but it can also be fabricated out of plastic rod.

The kit's Browning .50 cal heavy machine-gun is poorly proportioned. I rebuilt the gun cradle and mounting, and replaced the machine-gun itself with the Foto-Cut .50 cal. Foto-Cut are better known for their aircraft photo-etched metal parts, but they make an excellent white metal .50 cal with photo etched parts.

The M18 was quite a small vehicle, with very little interior stowage for the crew's kit. As a result, M18s in combat are invariably covered with tarps, haversacks and other equipment. I used some Verlinden after-market stowage, and fabricated some additional bed rolls and tarpaulins using epoxy putty. For this type of stowage, I prefer to use Kneadatite, sometimes called Duro putty. This comes in a blue and yellow strip and was originally designed for quick plumbing repairs. It has a much gummier and elastic texture than Milliput, which makes it much easier to roll into flat sheets.

With the turret done, I returned to detail the hull. Many modellers find US armoured vehicles of WWII to be fairly dull since they were usually finished in a very dull Olive Drab scheme rather than the more colourful German schemes. I find that American armoured vehicles can be made to look very interesting by spending time on the exterior stowage and extensive tool stowage so characteristic of wartime US armoured vehicles. ▶



I replaced many of the tools on the hull with Collector's Brass tools, which are beautifully detailed and more accurate in shape and attachment fittings than the kit parts.

One of the stranger features of the kit is the use of fine raised lines to indicate the locations for the tools. These lines must be carefully removed. For modellers not wishing to go to the added expense of after-market tools, equivalent results can be obtained by adding proper tool straps and other attachment fittings to the kit parts. I added my own gun cleaning tubes on the left hull side instead of the kit part (C25) which is far too 'dainty'. I used the kit brush guards for the headlights, but I replaced the guard (C28) for the siren which was not well depicted.

If the front hatches are left open, some attention has to be paid to the periscopes, as they do not attach to the ring properly and should be angled, not vertical. I hollowed out the cover over the fire extinguisher pull handles (C22) and made some handles from plastic sheet.

While looking at photos to position the tools on the hull rear, I suddenly realised that Academy had made a fundamental mistake in the shape of the rear hull plate (C1). The hull plate should begin to break inward before reach the fender line, not at the fender line. By this stage, my model was almost complete, and I decided to ignore the problem. However, modellers may wish to correct this on their kits. This is a substantial effort, since it means rebuilding the entire rear hull plate and its associated details.

Painting the model

I finished the model in overall Olive Drab. I generally use Tamiya acrylic paints, and for faded wartime Olive Drab, I mix up their Panzer Dark Yellow (XF60) and their Olive

Drab (XF62). I hand painted the mantlet cover is a slight lighter shade of Olive Drab, as these covers seldom matched the colour of the vehicle.

I sprayed the lower hull and parts of the upper hull in Tamiya Khaki (XF49). I use a combination of 'wet wash' and 'dry wash' techniques after the basic paint is applied. For the upper hull, I used a 'wet wash', lightly moistening an area at a time with clean mineral spirits, and then carefully applying a small amount of thinned black oil paint to certain areas. For the suspension, I use a less careful dry wash, that is I don't pre-moisten the surface, but simply apply an overall wash of black and dark brown oil paint thinned with mineral spirits.

I had decided early on that I wished to depict one of the 1944 Summer period M18s. These had more colourful markings than later in the war, in part due to the conviction of many tank destroyer crews that the novel shape of their vehicle would lead trigger-happy GIs to mistake it for a German tank. The M18 was quite novel at the time for its use of torsion bar suspension, muzzle brake, and other features more commonly associated with German armoured vehicles. As a result, many M18s received larger white stars than were usual at the time for other US armoured vehicles. I painted the stars on my model using a stencil I cut from adhesive Frisket paper using the Verlinden Productions' stencil set as a guide.

Some units also underpainted the barrel in white. While this was an accepted camouflage technique mentioned in standard US Army engineer manuals, I suspect it was done on the M18 to make its long gun tube less conspicuous. Archer Fine Transfers recently released an excellent set of dry transfers for US Normandy shipping markings, and I used their set on this model.

The tank destroyer battalions landed in the weeks immediately after the D-Day landings used a standardised set of three colour bars as a form of shipping identification, and also for security reasons since the usual bumper codes were supposed to be painted over. One of the battalions used a white/maroon/white pattern, and a photo of one of these vehicles can be seen on page 27 of my recent book in the Concord series, *US Tank Destroyers in Combat 1941-45*. The only decal I used from the kit was the yellow bridging circle.

After the markings were applied, I did some final weathering using more oil washes. Once everything was dry, I applied a final coat of Testor's Dullcoat flat finish. When this coat was dry, I did some metallic highlights using ground graphite powder from a pencil sharpener.

For a figure to place next to my completed model, I chose one of the recent Blue Max resin figures (kit A01). This is a very well sculpted figure right down to the zippers, though I found some of the facial features a bit exaggerated. I completed the base using techniques I've described before using acrylic gel for the base texture and then adding natural materials and flocking for the foliage.

Overall, the Academy kit builds up into a very attractive model. Some modellers not willing to go to the amount of trouble I did to enhance the detail on the kit may wish to wait and see if the AFV Club kit is any better. Nevertheless, after the flood of German Panzers over the past few years, it's nice to see a new Allied vehicle depicted.

Availability

Kneadatite (Duro) is available from Optum Hobby Aids, PO Box 262, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3FR.



Camel Riders on the Border

John Boyton modifies 120mm Super Scale Verlinden Productions' figure kits into a very unusual model of a modern 'frontiersman' - a Russian border guard

version as the camel furniture is very basic when compared to the other three kits, and the figure is seated. Once I had the kit in my hands it became a bit clearer what would be needed to convert the figure into to a modern day soldier.

The camel

The camel is made in two main halves, with separate tail, ears and neck. As the body is in two pieces care should be taken to ensure the join is as flat as possible, to eliminate the need for too much filler. Once all the body parts were joined, the right hand side bag was cut away and the area smoothed using wet or dry paper.

The next part that needed to be altered were the tassels that hang off the lower blanket on the camel. As this model was to depict a camel in military service I thought that tassels would be slightly out of place. By cutting through with a razor saw from two different angles, then cleaning up with a Stanley knife, most of the hard work of removal was simple. To finish off some 600 wet or dry, used wet to reduce the dust that would be made, was used to smooth out the last vestiges of the tassels and to achieve a smooth finish. After this was finished I noticed that a couple of areas needed 'padding' with Milliput on the camel where the tassels had been. With this complete the joins on the neck, ears and tail were filled using an excess of

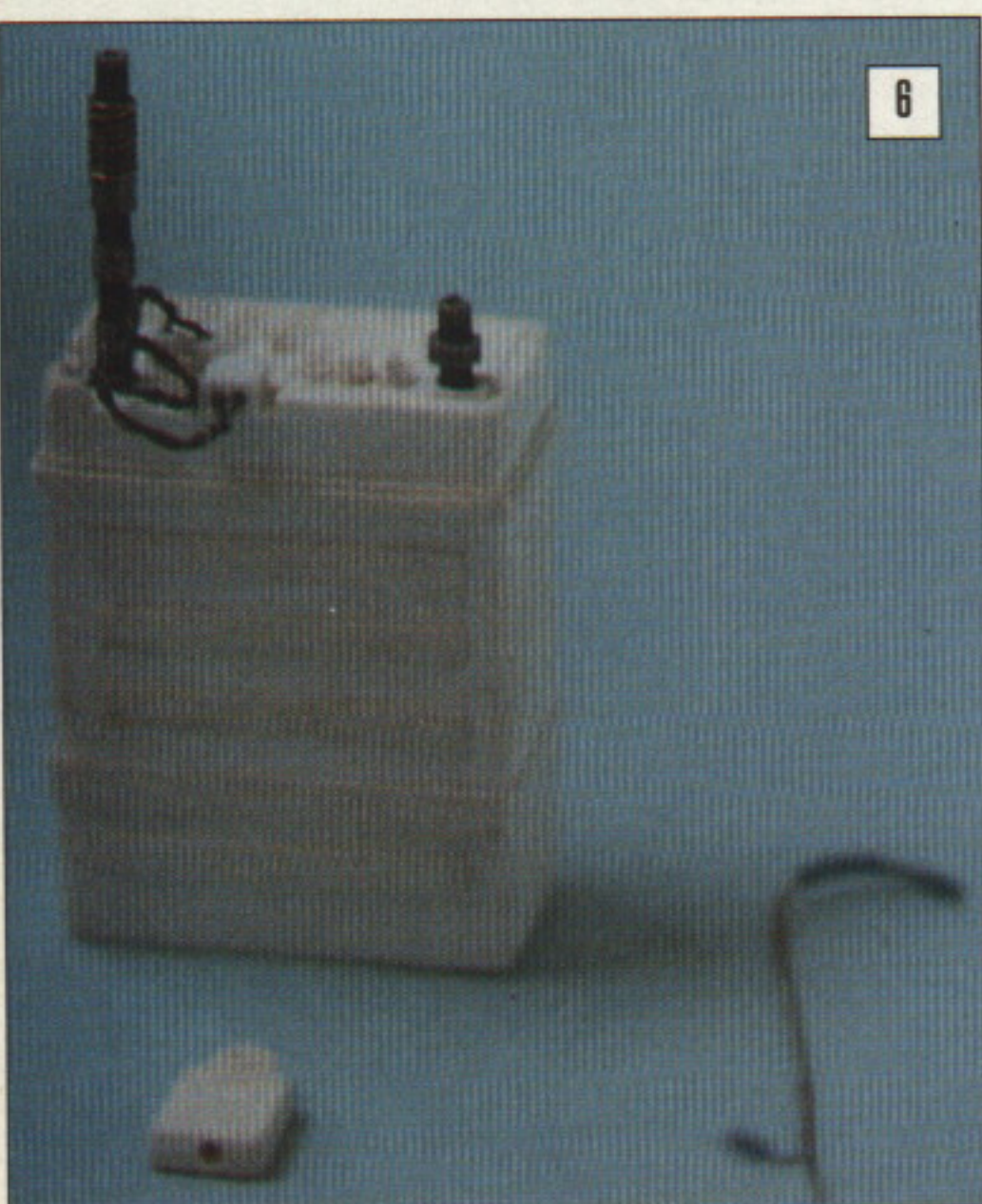
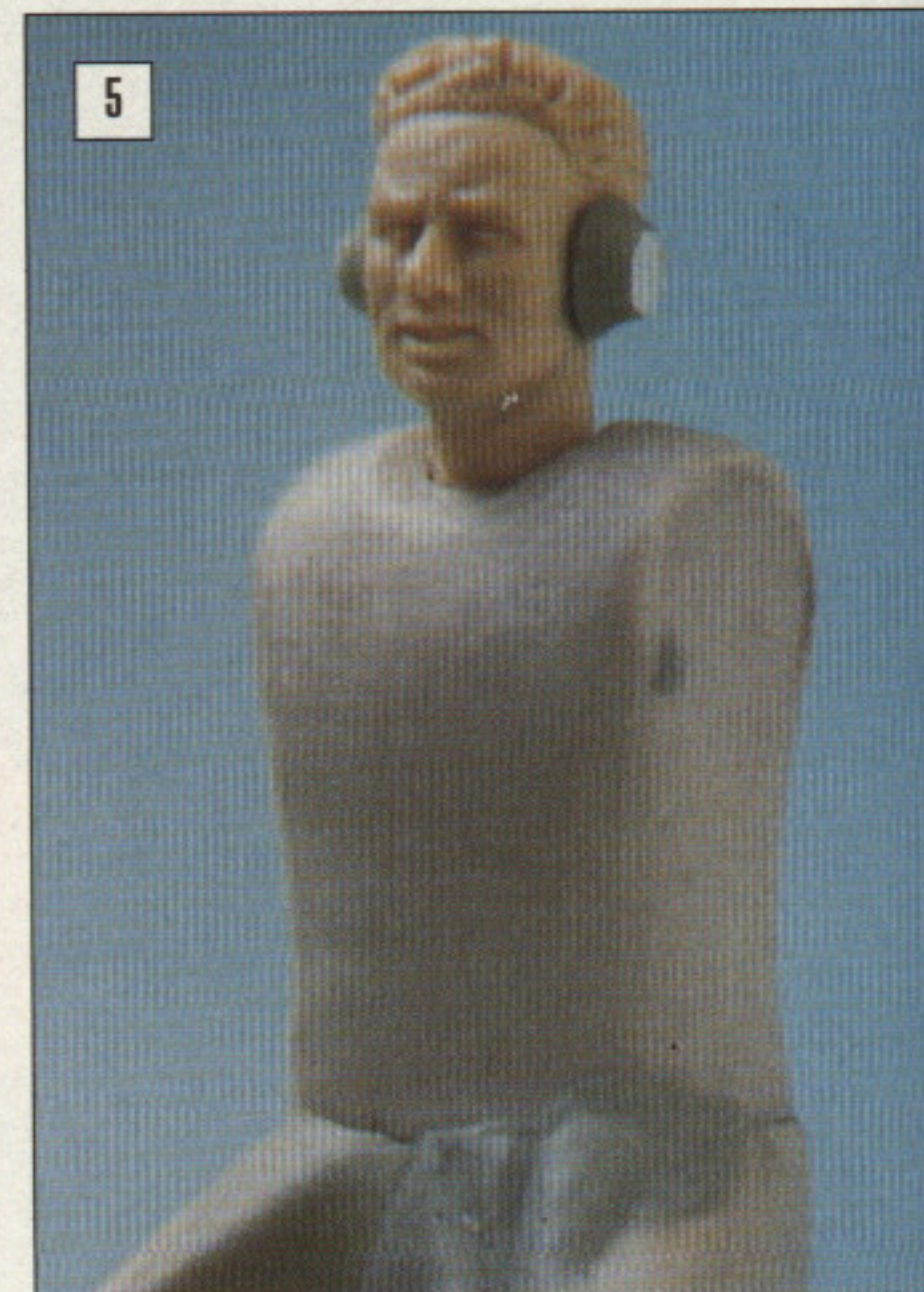
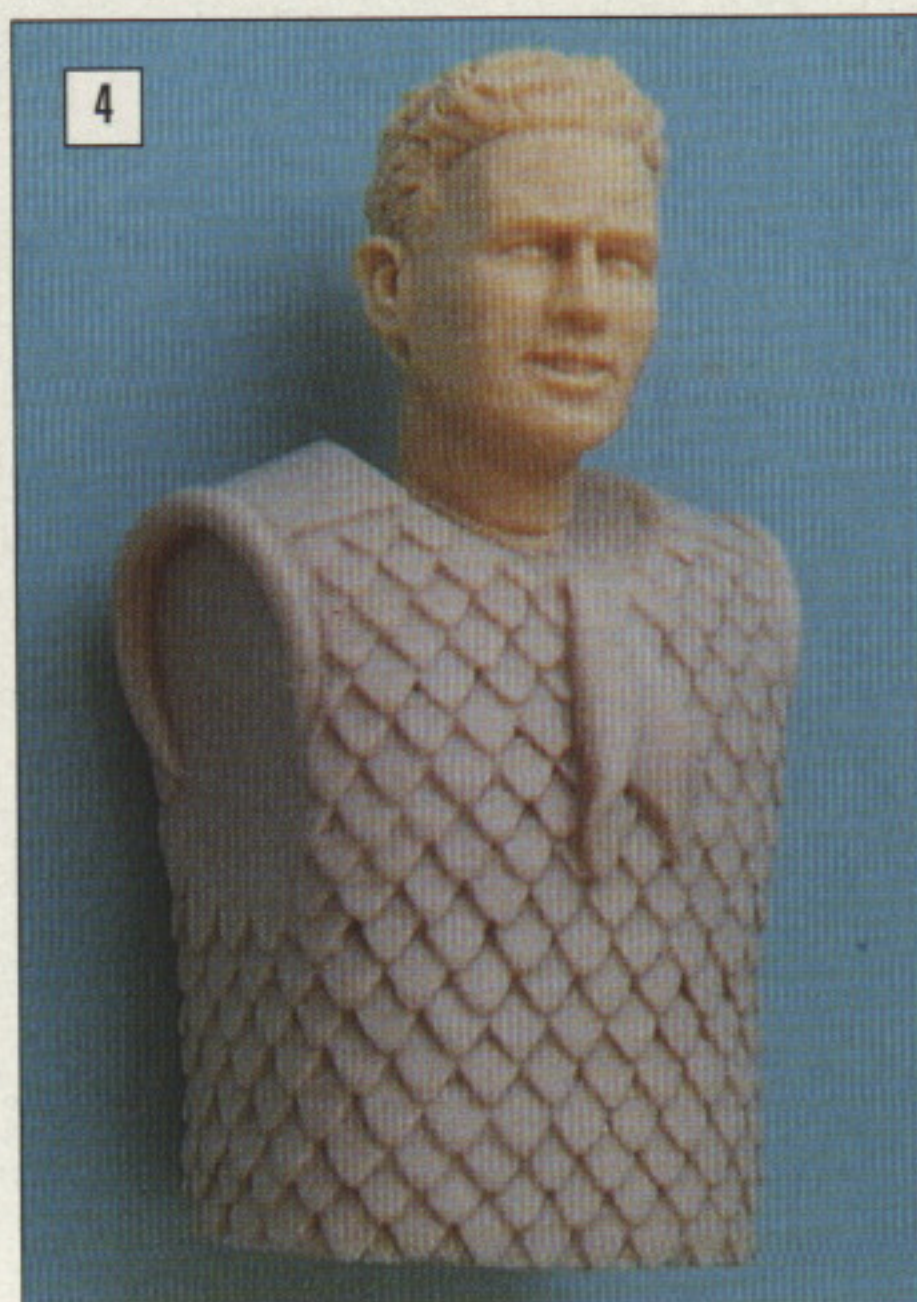
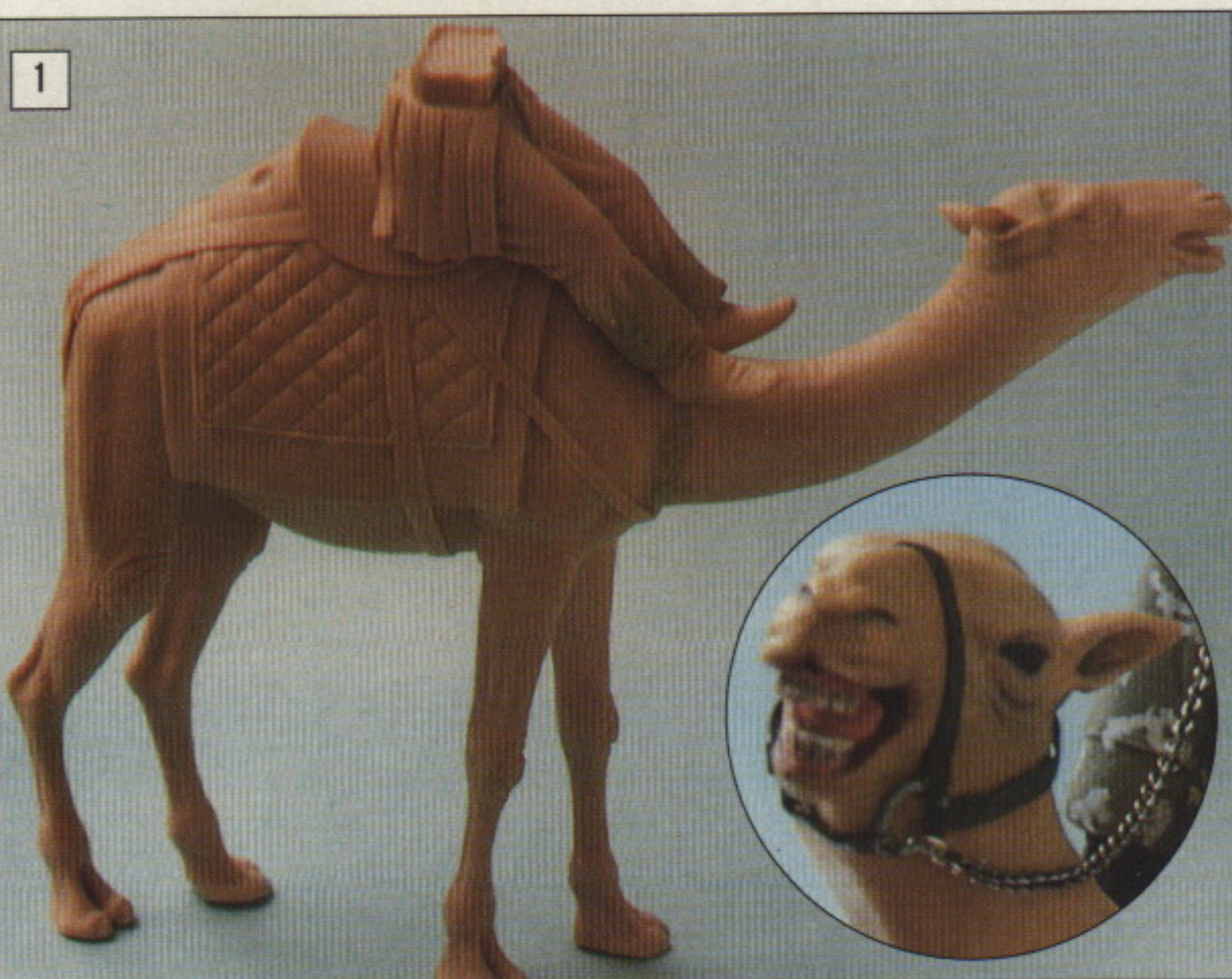
The inspiration for models can come from any source,

whether it be from books, photos or films. This model came about after seeing a program on British television which was about the break-up of the former Soviet Union.

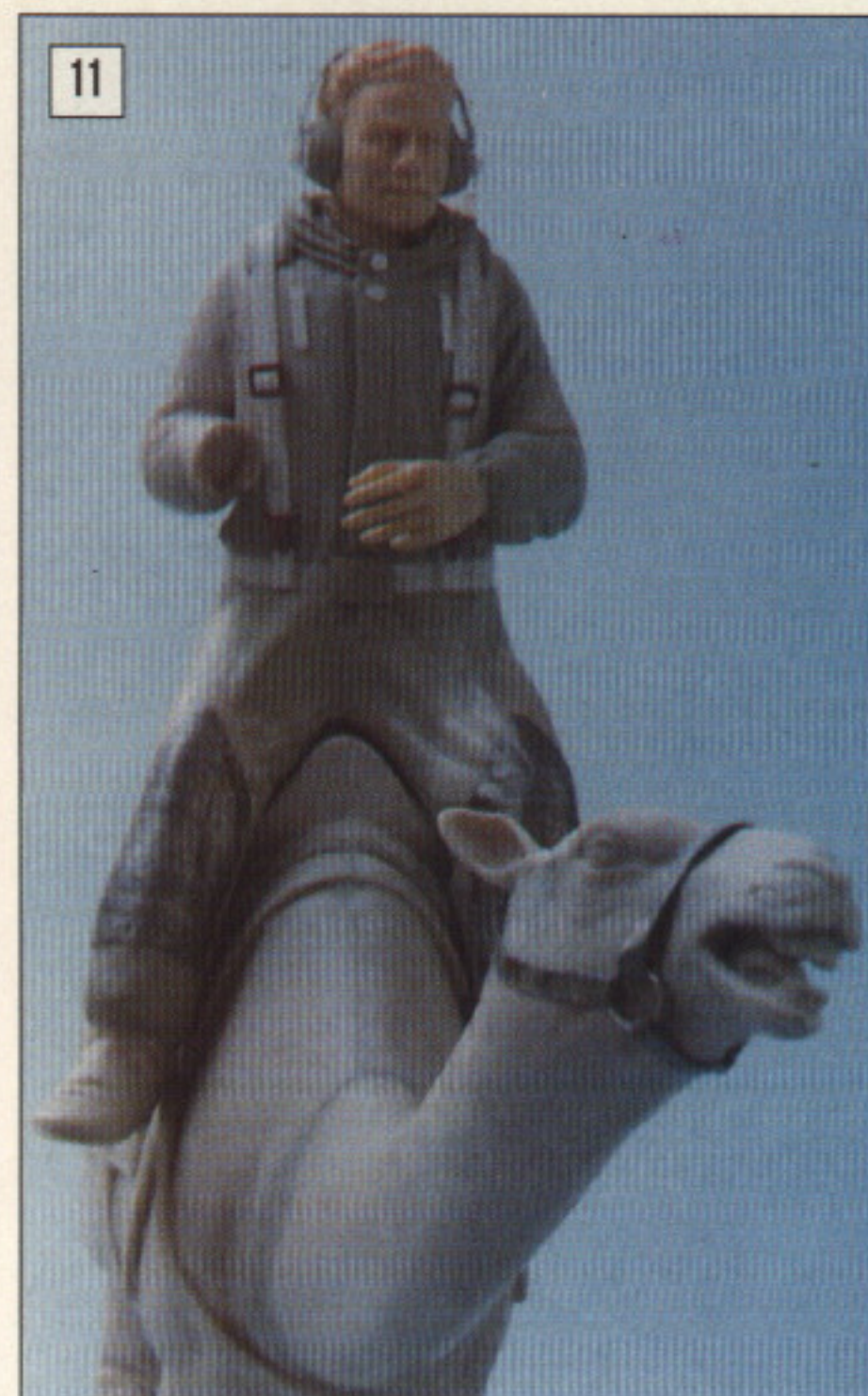
The program was about what would happen to the nuclear weapons that are stored in the Republic of Kazakhstan, once control of the weapons was gained by the republic. As the program evolved it seemed that control would not be lost as the weapons could only be launched by Russia, but could be dismantled for \$140,000,000 care of the Clinton administration. It was during the last few minutes that the program showed two Russian soldiers riding on camels and patrolling the border. As it was in the last few minutes of the program I did not have time to video it, but that image has stayed with me for the last six years.

At the time there were no camels available in 120mm, and not to be until VP kit No.982 in December 1994, so even though it seemed a good idea for a model there was no way that I could build it. Now six years later there are four camels available in 120mm, so my idea could be realised.

Verlinden Productions' kit No.1200 seemed the perfect subject for the con-



1. Trimming down of the skirt front and the removal of excess bags, head harness, etc., has taken place.
2 & 3. Adjustments to the rider; skirt removed and thighs spread. 4. Replacement head from the Kirin range.
5. With the scale armour removed the top half of the rider is added to the bottom. 6. Russian R 159 Radio under construction.



7. Radio added to figure. The headphones are in place. 8, 9 & 10. Straps and buttons have been added. 11. A new head harness has been fitted to the camel. The rider's left forearm, reinforcing patches to the knees, hood and headphones' details have been added.

Milliput I had left over. The head harness was removed as the rope harness did not go with the idea I had in mind and a new one was made from lead sheet with rings made from fine wire.

The border guard

The seated figure has a series of leather strips that hang around his waist and even though they look great, they would be out of place on my model, so they had to go. I cleaned up the front strips and used some Milliput that I had over to make a new fly front. The boots were glued on next and then new lower edges for the overalls were made, so they blended onto the boots. After this had dried the rest of the strips were removed and the whole of the lower leg portions were smoothed using wet or dry.

As I sat the figure back onto the camel I realised that he looked very precarious and would need to have his legs further apart to look more correct. After trying for a while to heat the legs up and spread them, but to no avail, I had to cut the figure through the

crutch so that the legs could be spread apart.

With this procedure other problem manifested themselves where the newer spread legs did not fit the profile of the camel and the boots sat at the wrong angle. To overcome this the Milliput was removed and the feet angled for a better fit, then more Milliput was added to blend the boots to the lower legs and to blend the legs to the camel. Once this had set I made new heels for the boots as these were not on the original figure.

The top of the body has scale armour moulded on which had to be removed. I used a Stanley knife for this and finished off with wet or dry paper again. After drilling out the neck I added a new head, with a long neck, from my spares box as this makes positioning of the head easier. As the body was carved away this was constantly checked to ensure that the body took on the correct profile and also to ensure that the top half matched the bottom half. With the top and bottom halves joined some final sanding was made to get a smooth finish.

To define the figure's waist a piece of plastic card was cut and glued around the area,

the join being placed under where the belt buckle would be. Milliput was used to blend the original lower half onto the belt area and to give it a slightly baggy look, but not too baggy as the coveralls are quite tight fitting. As I did not know at this stage where the shoulder straps would lie I had to make the radio first.

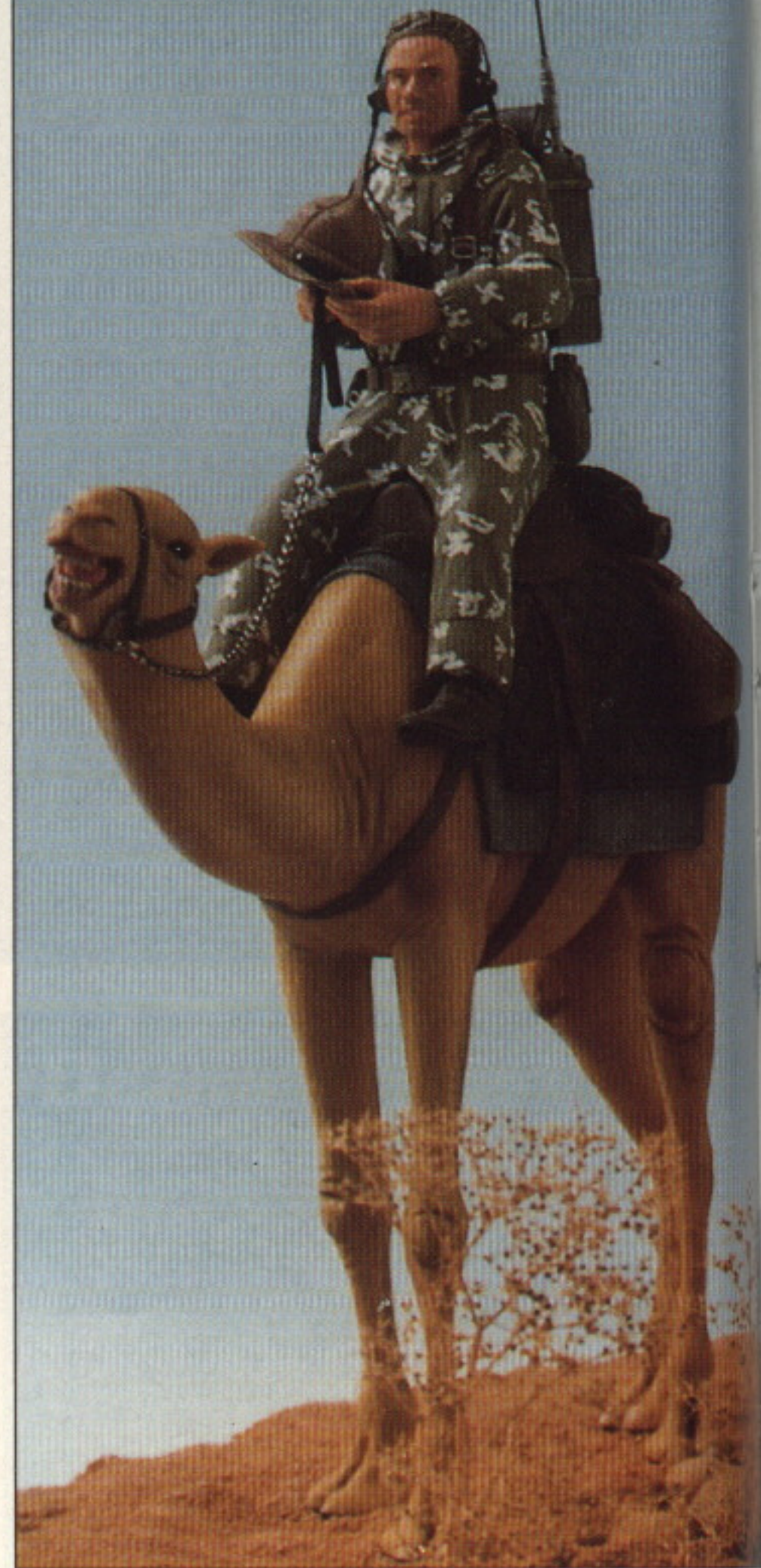
The radio

The radio was made up from plastic card; the hardest 'bit' was finding information on which sets would be used by the new republic. After consulting Jane's encyclopaedia of communications the R-159 UHF radio seemed to be the best bet. The R159 is a simplex UHF radio used for moderate terrain and is used by frontier guards and national guard units. The radio has a range of between 10 and 50km, measures 305mm x 180mm x 410mm and weighs 9.2 kg and seemed to be the ideal radio to build for the figure. As I had only one photo of the radio, all the information that was available was incorporated onto the model.

Once the radio was finished this was glued onto the figure which then enabled the shoulder straps to be glued onto the figure. I made the straps out of plastic card with the buckles from the Verlinden radio set. With these in place the shoulder pads were built up and Milliput was laid around the radio set, on the figure's back.

To give the impression of the coverall, Milliput was laid between the arms and straps and between the two chest straps. As the Milliput was curing the flap was cut into the front of the coverall and the fly front was redefined. As I could not be sure how the radio was attached onto the rear belt I made two straps to fit below the radio which attached at the back.

The figure's left hand could not be used or adapted and the only one that fitted was a spare hand available from the wounded para No.519, from the Verlinden range. As the left arm was missing from the elbow onwards the wrist of the hand was drilled out and a brass rod was inserted between them. Milliput was used to bridge the gap and to build up the sleeve. It took three or four tries to get the correct look I was after. While this was curing I added the loops on the



Quite an unusual choice of subject and not a really difficult conversion. The model may not be entirely correct in every detail, due to the difficulties of obtaining comprehensive information, but a modern Russian soldier on a camel is certainly 'different!'

chest of the jacket, and the other two sets, on the arms and the shoulders which were added from plastic card.

Up until now I had left the head removable, but I now had to glue it into place so that I could model the hood. I had made the headphones earlier, but had not finished them until the head was glued in place. The head strap came from a Kirin kit of the *StuG III* crew and pieces of plastic rod was used for the ends.

I had earlier made some knee reinforcements from lead sheet and once the arms had been bulked out I added some to the elbows as well. To finish off, the five-pointed star for the belt buckle was made in Milliput and as two water bottles were needed they were cast from a Verlinden original.

Painting

Prior to building up the figure I had drilled out the bottom of the figure so a piece of rod could be inserted which made holding the figure easier during the painting process.

The whole of the body was painted in enamels, including the face, as I just cannot get used to oil paints.

The camel, on the other hand, was painted in oil colours, after undercoating in enamels of course. After reading about how to paint camels a base coat of Humbrol sand was used which then had Yellow Ochre painted over it. As this was drying some white was used to give lighter shades and some Burnt Umber blended into the darker areas. As this is a rather large area to paint, it helped me to get to grips with the 'dreaded oils'. Given the slow drying times of oil paints I found it easier to blend than when I use enamels. I just wish it would work for my faces.

As mentioned previously this was to be a military camel so the blankets were kept.

plain. The idea for the quilted leather blanket was inspired after seeing Mel Gibson's film *Brave Heart*.

The mouth of the camel was painted in enamels, with care being taken to ensure the teeth were not too bright and clean. I found that a mix of yellow and white gave a good colour for the main parts of the teeth, and a slightly off white for the tips seemed to work.

The pistol holster is from the Verlinden kit, Soviet Infantry Weapons No.1159, which although a WWII pattern the shape hasn't changed much in the intervening years.

Once the figure was glued onto the camel, the leads for the radio were added from fine brass wire and stretched sprue was used for the aerial.

As a last thought I realised that being a military man he should really have some kind of head gear, so I made a Russian army peaked cap referring to those seen in photos. Plastic card was used for the brim with Milliput for the crown; the band was made from lead sheet.

The scenic base

The base was kept simple, Polyfilla over polystyrene tiles with fine sand, cat litter and small stones from the garden. And that is that ...or is it!

The unmentionables

What I have not mentioned is the three months that I had taken trying to track down information on the camel. Steven Zaloga mentions camels are used in his book, but does not show any photos. However, the book shows horses though, and these are quite sparsely furnished, being one reason why I did not elaborate on the kit's saddle, etc. Also, it mentions that the border guards

used to come under the umbrella of the KGB, so perhaps that is the reason that the embassy of Kazakhstan did not write back to me, when I wrote to them for information!

I had wanted to arm my figure with an AK 74, the nearest I could get was VP kit No.566, NVA soldier, but once the kit arrived the size difference was so great that I could not use the AK 47 for conversion ...even if I had altered it!

The radio was another sticking point, with only one photo to work from I spent hour upon hour trying to make out every little detail so I could get it as correct as possible. Even now a small voice keeps saying "you've missed a bit", so if you know better please let me know via the Editor.

Now I have finished the project I am quite pleased with the result which, hopefully, will spur you, the reader, to think about a similar project. The best piece of advice that I could give you is, make sure of your references before you start. Something I will be doing more of in the future!

Bibliography

Soviet Army Uniforms Today, Steven Zaloga, Arms & Armour Press ISBN 0-85368-698-X.
Jane's Military Communications, John Williamson, ISBN 0-7106-1234-5.
Inside the Soviet Army Today, Steven Zaloga, Osprey Elite, ISBN 0-85045-741-6.
Camouflage Uniforms of the Warsaw Pact & Non-aligned Forces, Dr J.F. Borsarello, ISBN 0-946784-08-6.

Availability

Verlinden Productions Via Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ



BMSS

Annual Competitions 1997



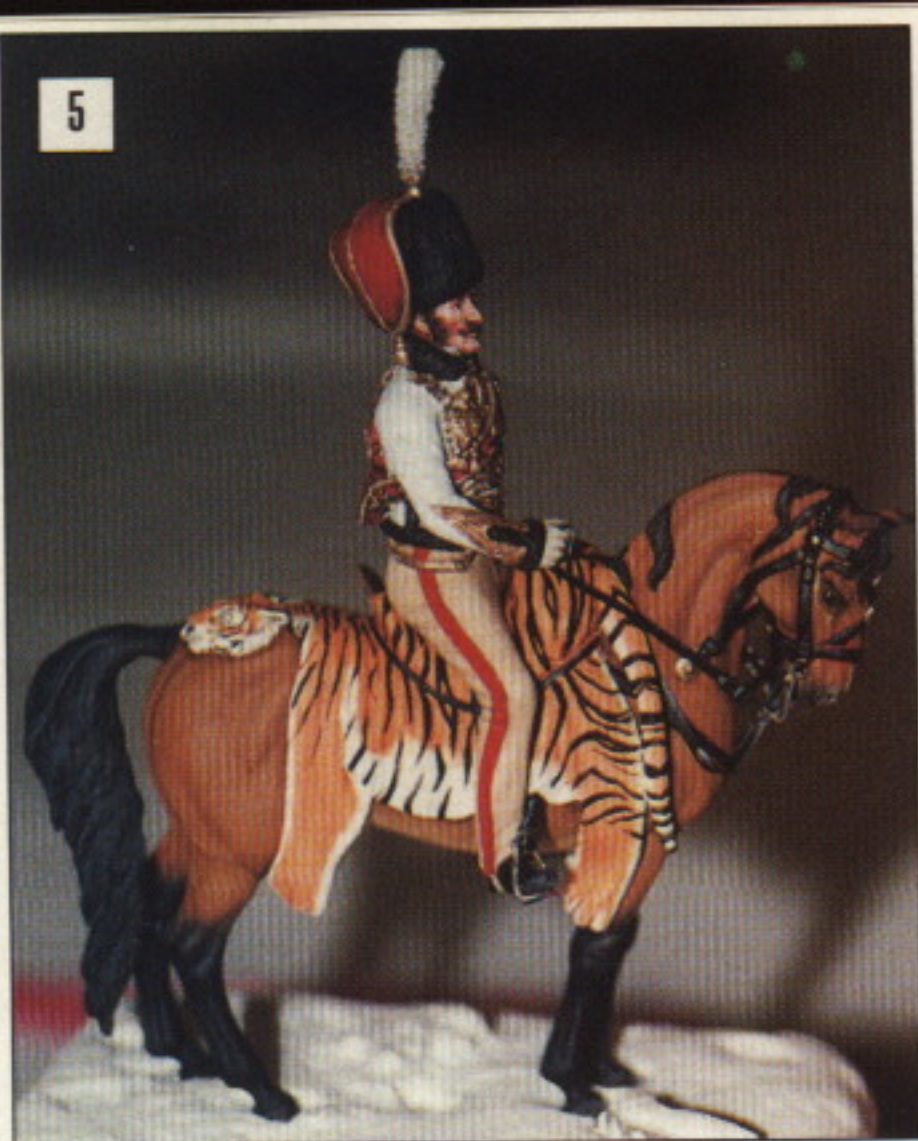
Stuart Asquith reports on the British Model Soldier Society's Annual Competitions...



The 1997 annual competitions and exhibitions of The British Model Soldier Society (BMSS) were held on Saturday, 26th April in the New Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, Holborn, London WC2.

The event has been held every year since 1936, but this year's was the biggest that the Society have yet staged. Organised by the BMSS Support Services, the show occupied six rooms (and, for the pedantic, one foyer) upstairs at the New Connaught Rooms. The event was well attended and what was particularly noticeable to this observer was that the event was busy right up to the 6pm close, without the usual afternoon 'tail off'.

1. The competition room in the New Connaught Rooms. 2. Alfred the Great (Ancient & Medieval Trophy). 3. Billman at 2nd St. Albans 1461 (Ancient & Medieval Trophy). 4. "Pieces of Eight" maybe, but definitely Robert Newton as 'Long John Silver' won 1st place in the Non Military Competition (Senior Class) for P. Curran.



5. Captain Mahnés, ADC to Murat. (Harris Mounted Trophy). 6. Chasseur à Cheval de la Garde Impériale. (Harris Mounted Trophy). 7. P. Blake's WWII Russian anti-tank gunner. (Lockwood/Secretary's Mug). 8. "A Winning Hand" (Blythwood Memorial Trophy).



Trade Stands

There were nearly 40 trade stands in attendance this year, offering a good variety of plastic and metal figures, toy soldiers, prints,

plastic and resin kits, tools and accessories, figure bases and flat figures. The traders were spread out over five rooms, but the BMSS had thoughtfully provided a map showing the location of each stand, so there was no real danger of missing any of them.

BMSS Stands

The BMSS themselves had a number of stands, providing visitors with information on recruitment, support services and the society archives. There were also displays of flat figures, member's models and model photography, and some noted experts also staged painting and modelling demonstrations throughout the day. The

various BMSS special interest groups (artillery, bands, conversions, Indian Army, military aircraft and military vehicles) each had a table showing a representation of

their particular field of interest. A number of BMSS branches also staged displays of members' models.

Other Societies

A number of other societies also had displays - The British Flat Figure Society, The Continental Wars Society, Corps of Drums Society, Plastic Warrior and the Victorian Military Society.

Wargaming

There were two wargaming demonstrations on show. The Skirmish Wargames Group staged a participation game based on Rorke's Drift during the Zulu War 1879 and using 54mm figures. The Continental Wars Society put on a refight of Langensalza 1866, this time with 15mm figures.

For more information on the BMSS and its activities, contact the BMSS Recruitment Officer, 12 Savay Lane, Denham Green, Buckinghamshire UB9 5NH.

The Competitions

The a list of the winners of each class of the competitions follows. Each class has been given a brief description to enable the reader to both understand their content. With a couple of exceptions (Peter Wilcox and Robert Tichband Trophies), all the competitions are open only to fully paid up members of the BMSS.

Ancients/Medieval Trophy

Figures representing any nation, state or tribal group prior to 1500AD.
Total Entries: six
1st D.G. Lane: "Louis de Nevers".

Blythwood Trophy

Flat figures.
Total Entries: nine
1st Dr M.D. Thomas: "1st Empire Cuirassiers".

Britain's Trophy

Figures of Britain's Ltd original design, converted and/or painted in any style. Recast pieces in Britain's design or converted also eligible.
Total Entries: seven
1st R. Dilley: "Colours and Escort, Somerset Light Infantry 1910".

Clayton/Cox Trophy

Juniors only. Figures, may include equipment.
Total Entries: nine
1st T. Harrison: "Grenadier Guard, Inkerman 1854".

Disley Busts Competition

Busts only.
Total Entries: 11
1st J. Regan: "Sergeant 95th Rifles 1811".

Dorset/Golden Jubilee Trophy

Displays of 10 or more toy figures and equipment in gloss finish.
Total Entries: seven
1st G. Hanger: "Is that Norman?"

Editor's Trophy

Comical entries only.
Total Entries: six
1st G. Hanger: "Going Private".

Fosten Guards Trophy

Mounted or foot guards, any nation or period.
Total Entries: five
1st T. McClaughlin: "Senior Drum Major, Brigade of Guards".

Fred Green Diorama Award

A completely encased display including groundwork.
Total Entries: six
1st M.J. Creese: "Bulow's HQ".

Gottstein Cup

Single foot figures up to 75mm.
Total Entries: 13
1st D.G. Lane: "Officer, Grenadier de la Ligne".

John Gardner Trophy

Single figures, mounted or foot, over 75mm.

Total Entries: 11

1st T. McClaughlin: "Royal Guard Hussar, Kingdom of Naples 1815".

Harris 'Mounted' Trophy

Single mounted figure up to 75mm.
Total Entries: eight
1st D.G. Lane: "Trooper 25th Dragoons 1815".

John Peck Trophy

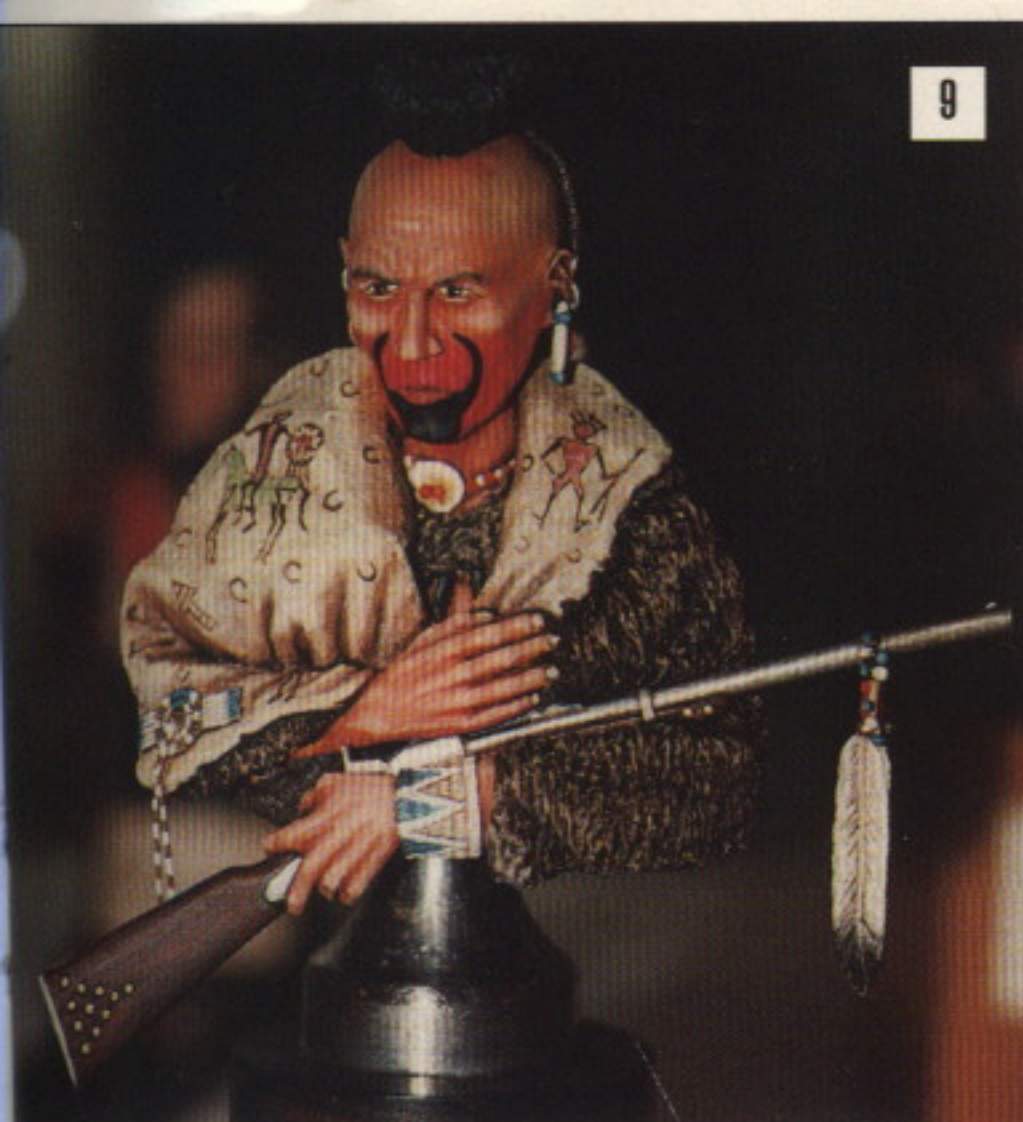
Bands and corps of drums from any nation or period.
Total Entries: two
1st M. Morrissey: "Band of the 15th/19th Hussars".

Lockwood/Secretary's Mug

Novices only.
Total Entries: seven
1st P. Blake: "Russian Soldier WWII".

MAFVA Trophy

Military vehicles, artillery and equipment under 1:35 scale. May include figures.
Total Entries: 15



9



10



11

9. Pawnee c.1832 (Disley Busts Competition). 10. "Reconnaissance Report" by M.J. Creese. (Napoleonic Trophy). 11. RSM Irish Guards. (Fosten Guards Trophy). 12. Stan Cheffy's "Hakkapellis" (Sandars/Edgcumbe Shield/President's Medal). 13. Senior Drum Major Brigade of Guards by T. McClaughlin. (Fosten Guards Trophy).



12



13

1st G. Cobb: "13pdr Field Gun 1914".

Micro-Scale Clegg Award

Small scale figures 30mm and below, may include vehicles and equipment.

Total Entries: seven

1st S.P. Briggs: "Knights of the Realm".

Napoleonic Trophy

Figures of any nation involved in the Napoleonic Wars 1789-1815.

Total Entries: 21

1st M.J. Creese: "Reconnaissance Report".

National Army Museum Trophy

British, Indian, Dominion and Colonial Troops, 1660 to the present day.

Total Entries: 13

1st T. Flanagan: "The Indian Mutiny".

Nicholson Trophy

Commercial manufacturers only, figures must be available for purchase by members at a trade stall at the Competition.

chase by members at a trade stall at the Competition.

Total Entries: six

1st Lancer: "Field Marshal Roberts".

Photographic Competition

Photographs of military models or military subjects.

Total Entries: one

1st J. Regan: "On the Field of Waterloo".

President's Medal

The model best liked by the President.

Total Entries: 233

1st Stan Cheffy: "Hakkapellis".

Reavley/Gould Trophy

Troops of any nation since 1901 in service or combat dress.

Total Entries: six

1st P. Richardson: "Heart of Darkness".

Sandars/Edgcumbe Shield

Scratch built figures only.

Total Entries: three

1st S Cheffy: "Hakkapellis".

Philip Stearns Trophy

Military vehicles, artillery and equipment, 1:35 scale and over.

Total Entries: 11

1st P. Mellis: "Lancia armoured railcar".

Thematic Display Award

A display of work on a theme.

Total Entries: three

Gold : No award

Wendy Dilley Award

Female warriors, auxiliaries, regular and civilian aid personnel.

Total Entries: seven

1st M. Taylor: "Girl Soldier, Israel".

Whitbread Trophy

Awarded at the annual competition, judged from the items contributed to the BMSS national collection in each year.

to the BMSS national collection in each year.

Total Entries: two

1st A.R. Dunstan: "Legionnaire 13th Dble 1942".

Robert Tichband Trophy

Open Competition for military, naval or air force equipment, including figures.

Total Entries: three

1st A Webb: "Festival Time 1941".

Peter Wilcox Trophy

Open competition for military figures.

Total Entries: 16

1st G. Illsley: "1st Bn Lancashire Fusiliers, Somme 1916".

Non-Military Competition

A single figure of any period or mythical in any scale. Senior and junior classes.

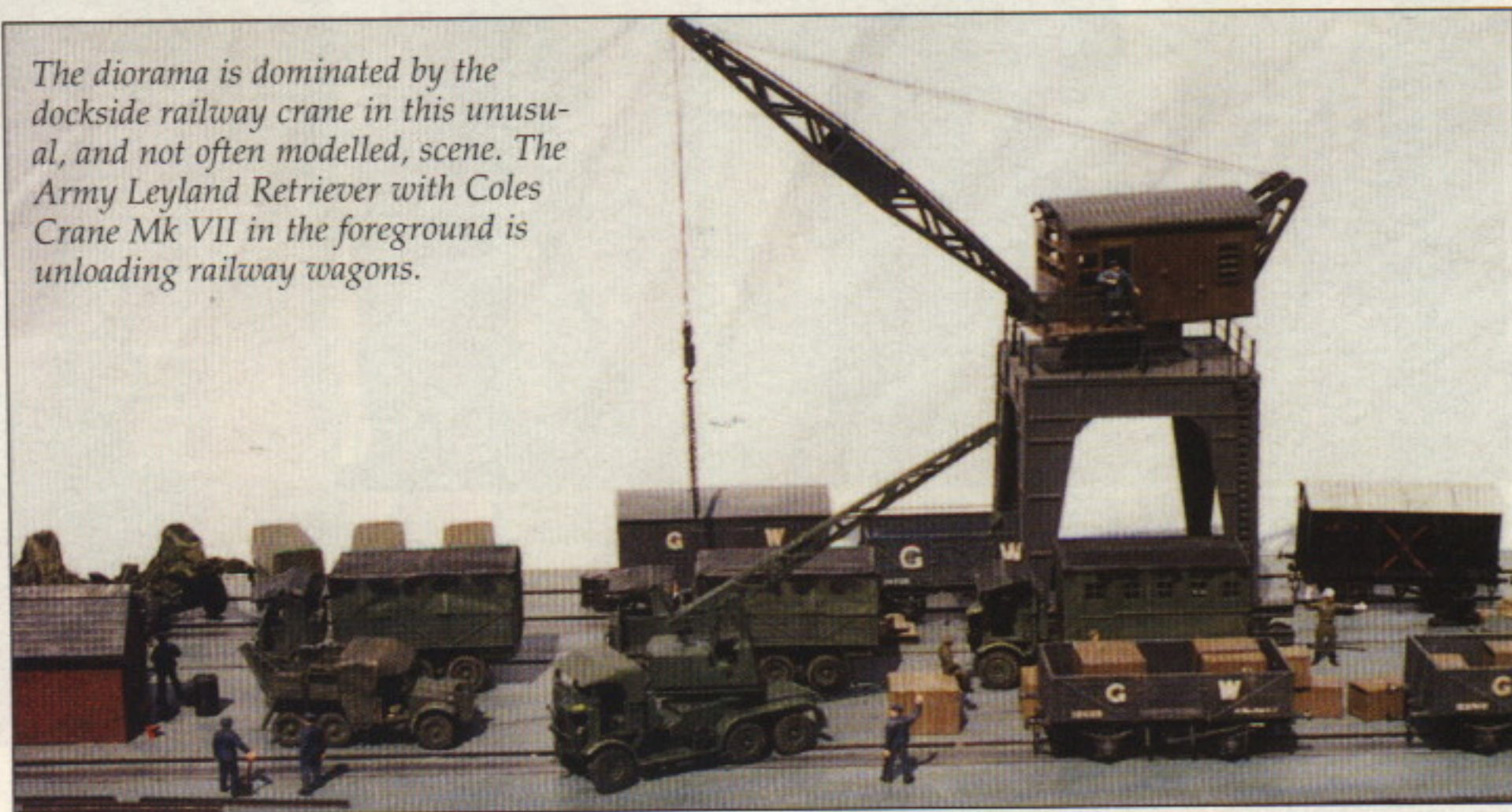
Senior Class: Total Entries: 10

1st P. Curran: "Pieces of Eight".

Junior Class: Total Entries: one

1st T. Dore-Blanch: "Ork Warlord".

The diorama is dominated by the dockside railway crane in this unusual, and not often modelled, scene. The Army Leyland Retriever with Coles Crane Mk VII in the foreground is unloading railway wagons.



Down at the Docks

Michael Gill models a 1:76 scale diorama based on a wartime illustration

In the beginning was an idea, in the end was a model and in between, about 14 months of modelling work. It all started from a picture in a book that did not have any obvious references to military modelling. The book was

LEFT: The Humber Light Reconnaissance Car, an MMS kit was made up with little alteration or extra detail and painted in Humbrol Dark Green (30). The military policeman, a motorcyclist with white helmet and gauntlets is directing traffic onto the docks.

BELOW: The diorama from the dockside crane side. Note the trailers and 5.5inch guns lined up for shipping.



a pictorial history of some local docks, and was purchased because of my interest in local history.

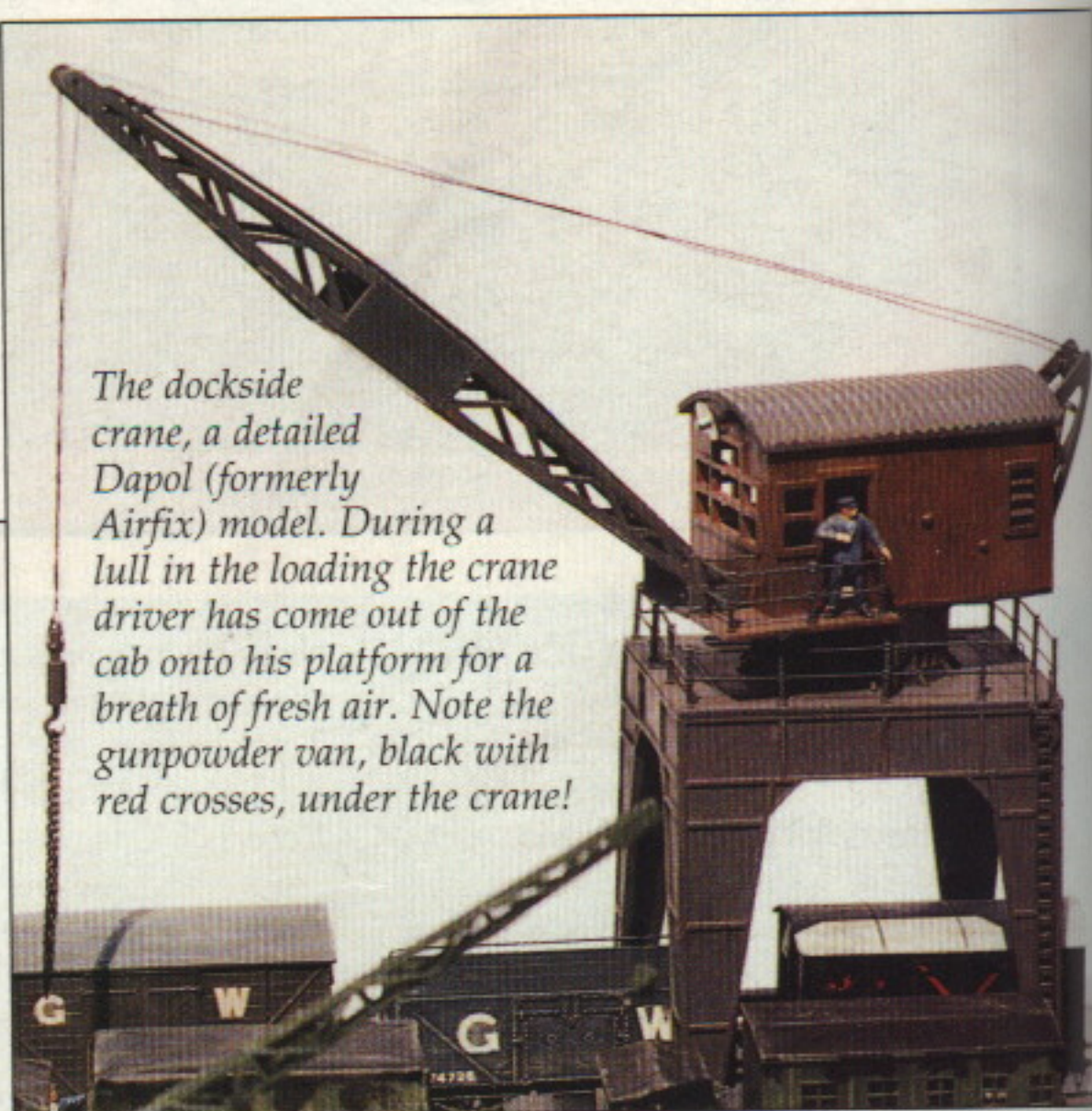
It was a considerable time after purchase, however, before the diorama potential of the wartime photographs caught my eye. In particular, it was a picture of 5.5in howitzers and a Morris Bofors Self Propelled gun awaiting transportation that attracted my attention.

At a very early stage I decided that I was not going to slavishly follow the photo; the final result is, I suppose, a result of letting the imagination rip, and finding a nice way of displaying a lot of vehicles in a small space.

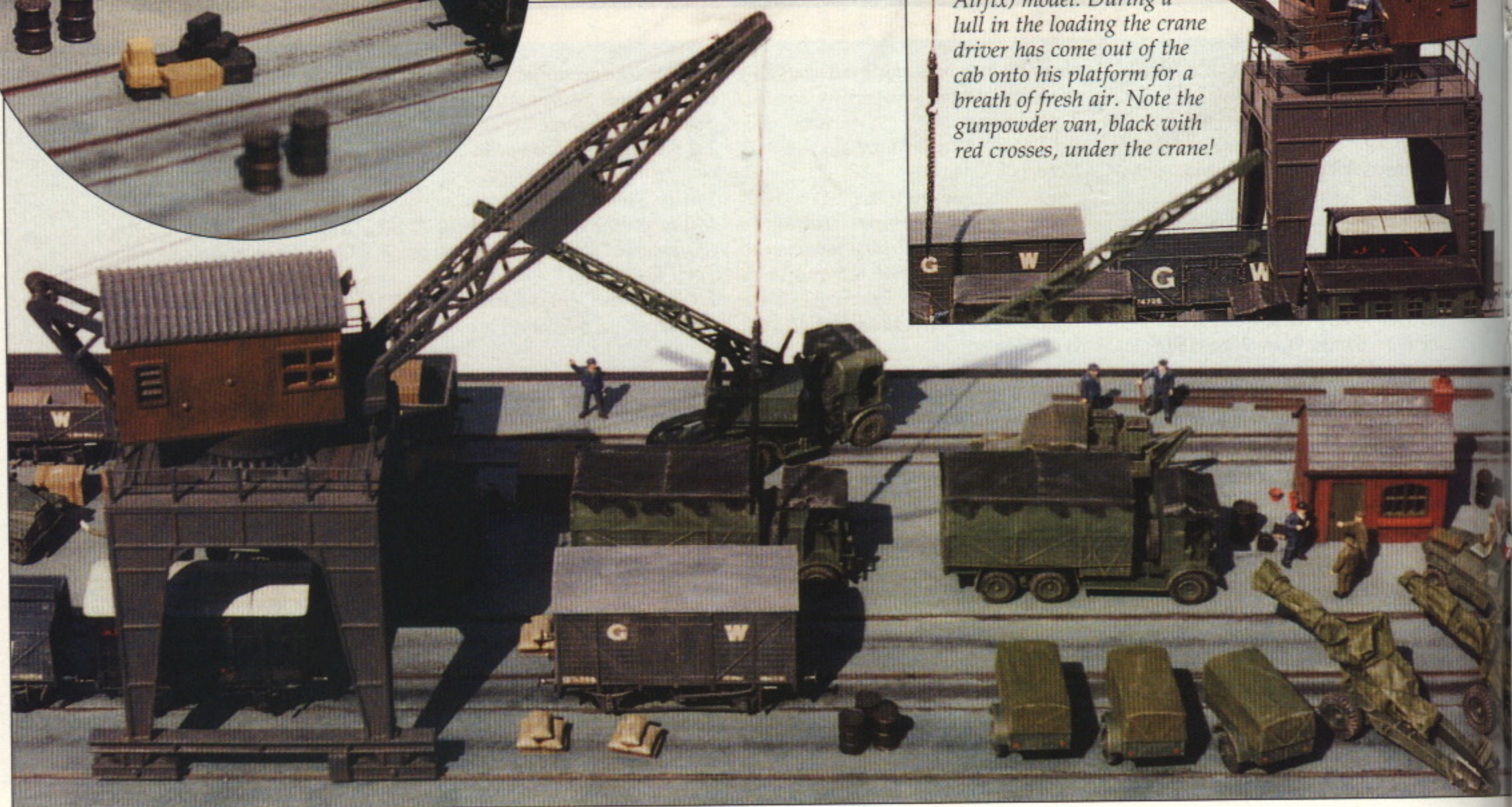
A study of the photo raised a number of immediate problems; how would the crane be made, what about the inevitable rails that are present on any dockside, would I include items other than those in the picture, how big was this thing going to get? Many of these problems were solved by frequent visits to the local model shop, but more of that later. My enthusiasm for getting started led to making a few models, then the base work and finally a few more vehicles and the figures. This article, however, deals with matters in a more logical sequence.

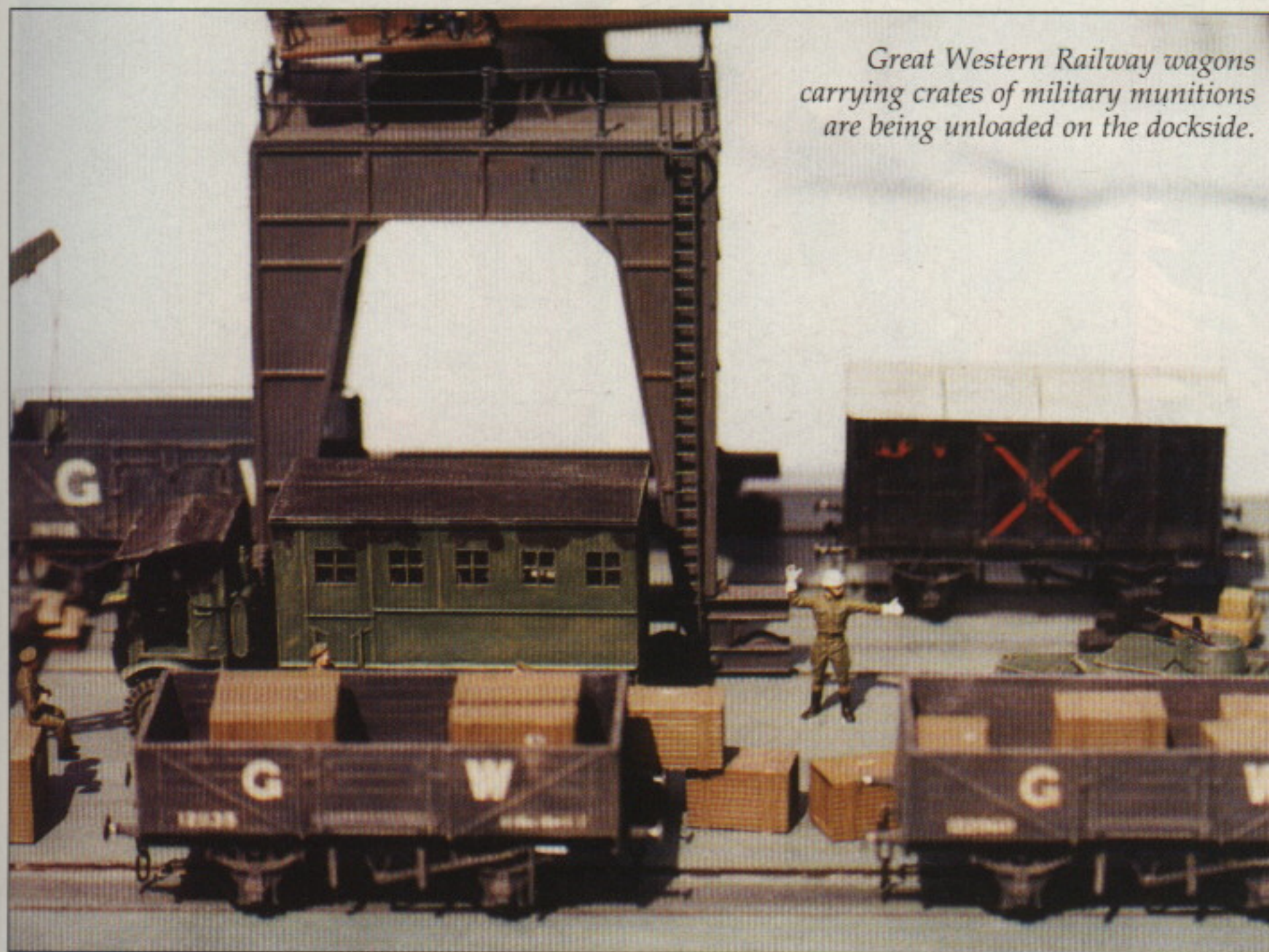
Base

The base is simply a piece of wood, two feet long by ten inches wide, edged with black plastic on three sides and embossed stone course plastic card at the front. The railway lines are genuine rails by Slaters, the plastic card makers, but who also produce a huge range of railway modelling accessories. The



The dockside crane, a detailed Dapol (formerly Airfix) model. During a lull in the loading the crane driver has come out of the cab onto his platform for a breath of fresh air. Note the gunpowder van, black with red crosses, under the crane!





Great Western Railway wagons carrying crates of military munitions are being unloaded on the dockside.

rails are set in strips of art card and are spaced to accept standard 00/H0 railway wagons and the travelling crane. The card is painted a grey concrete colour whilst Humbrol track colour was used for the rails. Various blacks, greys and browns were used to simulate dirt, water and oil drips, etc. The workman's hut is a standard Ratio railway kit, a small structure with red/orange brick-work, grey slate and a few white marks on the ridge tiles from the seagulls! Some spare lengths of rail were placed near the hut.

Dockside crane

A browse through the local model shop produced a travelling dockside crane made by Dapol Model Railways, although I am told that the mould was originally Airfix. A site visit to a publicly accessible dock enabled some photographs to be taken thus identifying a number of areas where improvements were required.

The principal work involved new ladders, the addition of handrails and some additional jib rigging. The moulded-on ladder on one of the legs was carved off and replaced with a Ratio kit item. Another length of laddering was used to provide access up the jib, and third short length replaced the kit item on the revolving platform.

All the vertical handrail posts were drilled out and lengths of 20 thou rod inserted to form the horizontal part of the rails. An additional pulley was fixed to the rear frame, together with cable anchoring points at the top of the jib. Some basic interior detail was added to the cabin prior to fixing the roof. The crane was painted in dark grey, except for the cabin which was natural wood, with light grey, gunmetal and rust weathering applied.

Military equipment

The one item that is common between the original photo and the model is the 5.5in howitzers. This was a perfect excuse to upgrade and detail the very old Airfix kit, and not have to worry about detailing the upper half as it is all wrapped up for travelling. Alternatively one could simply purchase the neatly produced BW Models metal ver-

sion. The kit trail legs require some lengthening and additional detailing around the tow hook. The gun barrel was shortened and then the whole of the barrel was covered in pre-painted tissue paper secured with cotton.

The three trailers are from the Airfix M3 half track kit, the only modification being tissue glued over the kit tilt to provide a better effect.

The armoured vehicles at each end of the convoy are both from MMS, a manufacturer of excellent quality, and whose models I thoroughly enjoy making. This diorama features their Humber Light Reconnaissance Car and Humber Scout Car. The kits are made up with little alteration or extra detail, after all they are 'at home' and not on active service in the front line. Both vehicles were finished in Humbrol Dark Green (30).

I have always enjoyed making the British early war 6x4 trucks. Those featured here are Guy FBAX and Crossley IGL8 General Service, the Leyland Retriever with Coles Crane Mk VII and House Type Machinery, and the Morris CD/SW breakdown.

The two GSs are built on Airfix Austin K6 chassis with scratch built cabs and bodies, the latter using planked card. Both the cab and GS body have covers from tissue. The Leyland with Coles Crane uses the Matchbox cab and chassis, the crane coming from the Airfix RAF Recovery Set and mounted on a simple scratch built platform. The Machinery lorry also uses the Matchbox cab and chassis. The body is scratch built with some interior detail as the eleven windows in the body allow a lot of light inside. The Morris breakdown is based on the Airfix Morris Bofors gun tractor with a new rear body and jib. These five models were based on plans by John Church and Mike Conniford. They are all very straightforward vehicles to make, lots of flat plastic card and microstrip with little in the way of nasty curves and angles.

Paint finish is dark green, with matt black 'Mickey Mouse' camouflage where appropriate. Weathering was kept to a minimum to reflect travel on relatively well kept and clean UK roads in summer.

Railway wagons

I will be honest, the wagons were not really necessary, but I just fancied doing them and

thought they would add a little more interest. All the wagons are 00/H0 injection moulded plastic kits and are built straight from the box. Four are Ratio, the fifth by Cooper Craft. They are beautifully moulded, have little or no flash and are easily built up in an evening. They are a real joy to make and paint, and for me plastic is unbeatable for workability and detail. It's a pity that some of imaginative products made by the smaller manufacturers cannot be made in plastic rather than metal or resin.

The three open wagons and one of the vans are finished in dark grey, the other van is finished in black with a heavily dirtied white roof. The red crosses on the doors indicate that it is a gunpowder van, hence the pile of ammunition boxes near it.

Figures and minor details

I wanted to have a mixture of military and civilian figures to populate the scene. Yet another visit to the model shop and a search through the boxes and Dapol Model Railways came to my rescue again with a box of railway workman that suited my requirements perfectly. The military figures are sourced from various Airfix and Matchbox kits. After removing moulding lines a length of plastic rod was inserted into their legs to provide a secure method of attaching them to the base. The civilians were painted in various shades of dark blue, the military in khaki drab.

The various crates, oil drums, etc., came from a set of railway accessories that I have had for years. However, this project has cleared me out of a few lines due to the numbers used. Where appropriate, extra strapping and plank panels were added to the crates. The crates have been finished in various shades of brown, the oil drums in dirty black.

Conclusion

This has been a project very different to anything that I have ever undertaken before. It is complete, but I do not know whether it is finished. There is always room for a extra little detail here or a bit more paint there. As time goes by the vehicular content may change. I am not averse to removing a model from one diorama for use elsewhere and putting another in its place.

None of the vehicles featured were particularly complex to construct, neither were any of the railway items. The complexity was in the construction of the whole diorama, and in achieving the 'right look'. Despite the popularity of large scale modelling, small scale (1:76 not 1:35) still has a contribution to make to military modelling in general, particularly when it comes to dioramas. And, as a final thought, the whole cost of the diorama was less than the price of some 1:35 scale resin models!

References

- Humber Light Reconnaissance Car, Terry Gander, *Airfix Magazine Annual 3*, PSL 1973.
- Modelling the 5.5in Howitzer, Terry Gander, *Airfix Magazine Annual 7*, PSL 1977.
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Mondial de la Miniature 97

The Editor reports on a much expanded model show held in Paris last June

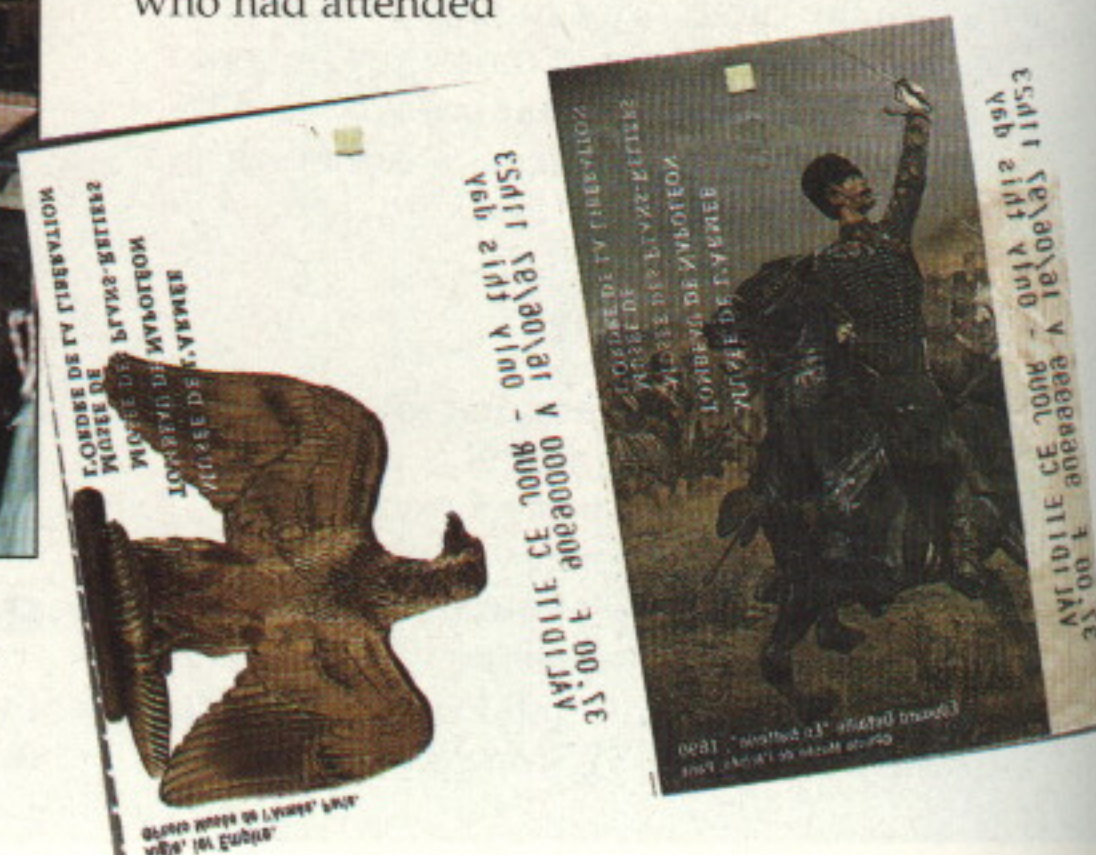


The glass fronted display cases were excellent for letting the viewer near to the models in the competitions. However, anyone unlucky enough to be on the bottom shelf was simply 'out of sight!' The system had its merits which fortunately outweighed those on the down side. Some larger models were in glass cases on tables at the side of the main displays.

The resounding success of last year's 'Mondial de la Figurine 96' in Paris, when the French hosted the World Expo, encouraged them to repeat the event again this year.

Divorced from the auspices of the World Expo, and flushed with the success of last year's Mondial with around 200 models entered and an estimated 8,000 visitors through the door, the French went one further and opened up the competition to other modelling disciplines, aircraft and all types of vehicles, civil and military, plus ships, and titled this year's event Mondial de la Miniature 97, to include the 'Mondial de la Figurine 97'.

Whether you agree with this expansion or not, and some of the British party who had attended





1. Krasinsky won a Gold Medal for young Spanish modeller Raúl Garcia Latorre who also took Best of Show and the Mondial 1997 Special Award.
 2. Flat figure of a Gypsy dancer from French painter Daniel Vale. 3 'Leaving for the raid' Vikings AD 800 modelled by Geoffrey Illsley won a Bronze Medal.
 4. Alice in Wonderland flats group by Mike Taylor was awarded a Gold Medal. 5. Mike Taylor receives his Gold Award from Phillipe Gengembre.
 6. French painter Catherine painted Edward Plantagenet, 'The Black Prince'. 7. French modeller Eric Crayston's 95th Rifle Regiment at Corunna 1809.
 8. British modellers Trevor Morgan (who arranged the trip for the visiting British contingent) and Ken Bruce take advantage of the glass showcases to get a better view of the models. However, models on the bottom shelf on the side units were in the dark and difficult to see.

last year didn't, it certainly makes for a more varied show; perhaps they've got their sights on something like the Paris Cnit, which covers all types of modelling, rather like a French Model Engineer Exhibition.

Remarkable value

Trevor Morgan again decided to put together a 'trip' to the Mondial for interested British modellers and their families via Cross Keys Travel, who arranged the visit by ferry and coach. This had three nights bed and breakfast at a three-star hotel for the all-in price of £101 - truly remarkable value for a trip to Paris. We set off on Friday 13th June from Eastern Docks, Dover on the 9.30am ferry and were in Paris at the Mondial by 4pm later that day.

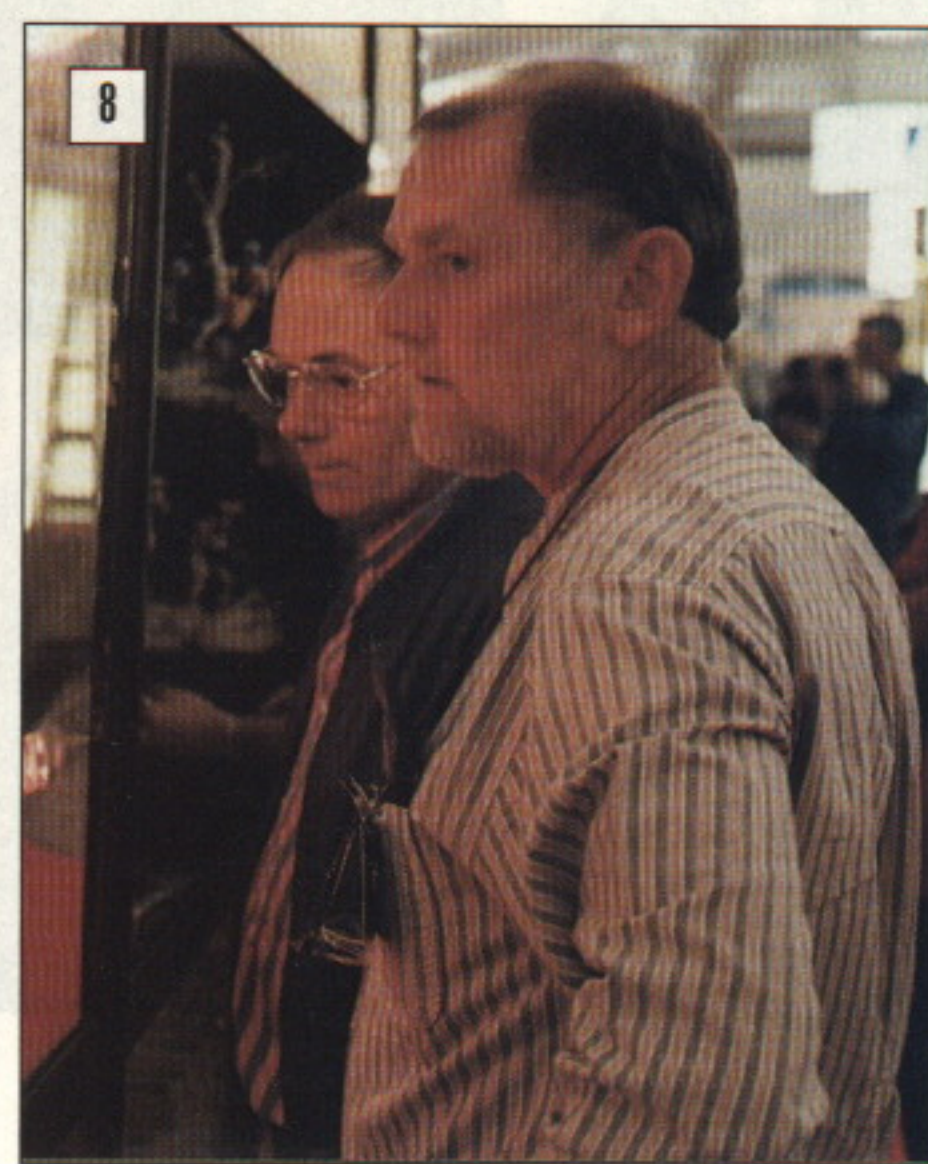
Excellent location

The event was held at the same location of Quai Branly which is close to the Eiffel Tower - literally a stone's throw to the right of that world famous metal edifice in Espace Eiffel-Branly, as you face it with your back to the River Seine. The exhibition hall, approximately 3,500 square metres, is a kind of semi-permanent structure, but with full facilities. The French Army Museum at Les Invalides isn't far away either. An ideal venue in an excellent location.



Trouble with tickets

The registration had closed at 3pm on the day of our arrival, but the organisers had expected our late arrival and space had been provided for those of our party entering the competitions. Competition entrants paid 100 Francs



(around £10) to enter as many models as could be fitted into the 50cm area allowed for each modeller and allowed free access to the show over the three days. Not so for those of us who weren't entering and who paid the 100 Francs for three days entry; we discovered that once the ticket was 'cancelled' on entry for that particular day you simply couldn't pop out of the hall for a meal or a bit of sightseeing because re-entry was denied by the door staff! ▶



9. Man of the moment! Spanish modeller Raúl García Latorre picking up his Best of Show and Special Award. 10. Norman Knight at Antioch 1268 - another Gold medal for Spain's Raúl García Latorre. 11. A Bronze Medal for Geoffrey Illsley's *Cousant l'étendard*. 12-13. Sculptor Patrick de L'Estang at work - and some examples of his very original busts. 14. José F. Gallardo from Spain took a Gold Medal with his Norman knight, Antioch 1268. 15. Italian modeller Ivo Preda's Bronze Medal winning, *Cezare de Laugier Neopolitan Velite Guard*. 16. American master modeller Bill Horan was Honoured at the Mondial and receives his award from Show organiser Charles Vincent Parachini. 17. More Gold for Spain's Raúl García Latorre with his 20th Maine at Little Round Top, 1863. 18. Adrian Bay receives his medal from Phillipe Gengembre. 19. Adrian Bay's *Marquis de Nadaillac* gained a Silver Medal.

Having no arrangements for a simple pass-out system beggers belief and the organisers must redress this matter for next year, especially for foreign visitors who wish to spend some of their time seeing the City as well as the Mondial.

Impressive layout

I was impressed with the layout of the exhibition hall. At first sight it was well disposed, with the big well-lit stands of Revell, Faller, Tamiya in the centre and the competition dis-

play cases down the centre of the hall behind, and the remainder of the trade stands arranged around it. I didn't attend last year's show, so I sought the opinions of the British modellers who did, and most told me this year's event took up more space in the hall, and was thus much bigger; but it was pointed out to me that there were less specialised model figure trade stands.

The facilities provided for refreshments were very good - comprising a bar, coffee and sandwiches, and also, in fine French tradition, separate wine and Champagne bars. However, there were no chairs for the public to rest, except those in the auction and prize-

giving area. There was plenty of space available around the exhibition hall, which never really seemed crowded, for rest areas and some people just sat on the floor!

Display cases

The models in the competition were contained and displayed in tall, self-contained glass fronted display cases, on three shelves. On first impression these were excellent. They gave a good close-up view of the models, but there was one disadvantage which was pointed out to me by some of the judges and modellers entering the competition - the bottom shelf was unlit and, therefore, quite dark. In conversation



open to other scale models and I couldn't help marvel at some of the exquisite work on show.

The competition categories

The miniature figures part of the Open Competition, was divided into three categories - Probationer Level, Advanced Level and Masters Level. Each category has a diorama section. The Probationer Level is for younger figure modellers and beginners of all ages. Certificates of Merit are awarded.

The Advanced Level is for experienced modellers; quote: "... those who do not yet feel ready for mastery level competition." Pewter Medals and Certificates of Merit are awarded.

The Masters Level, the competition guide explains, "... concerns all artists notified prior to the competition; i.e. those possessing strong experience in international

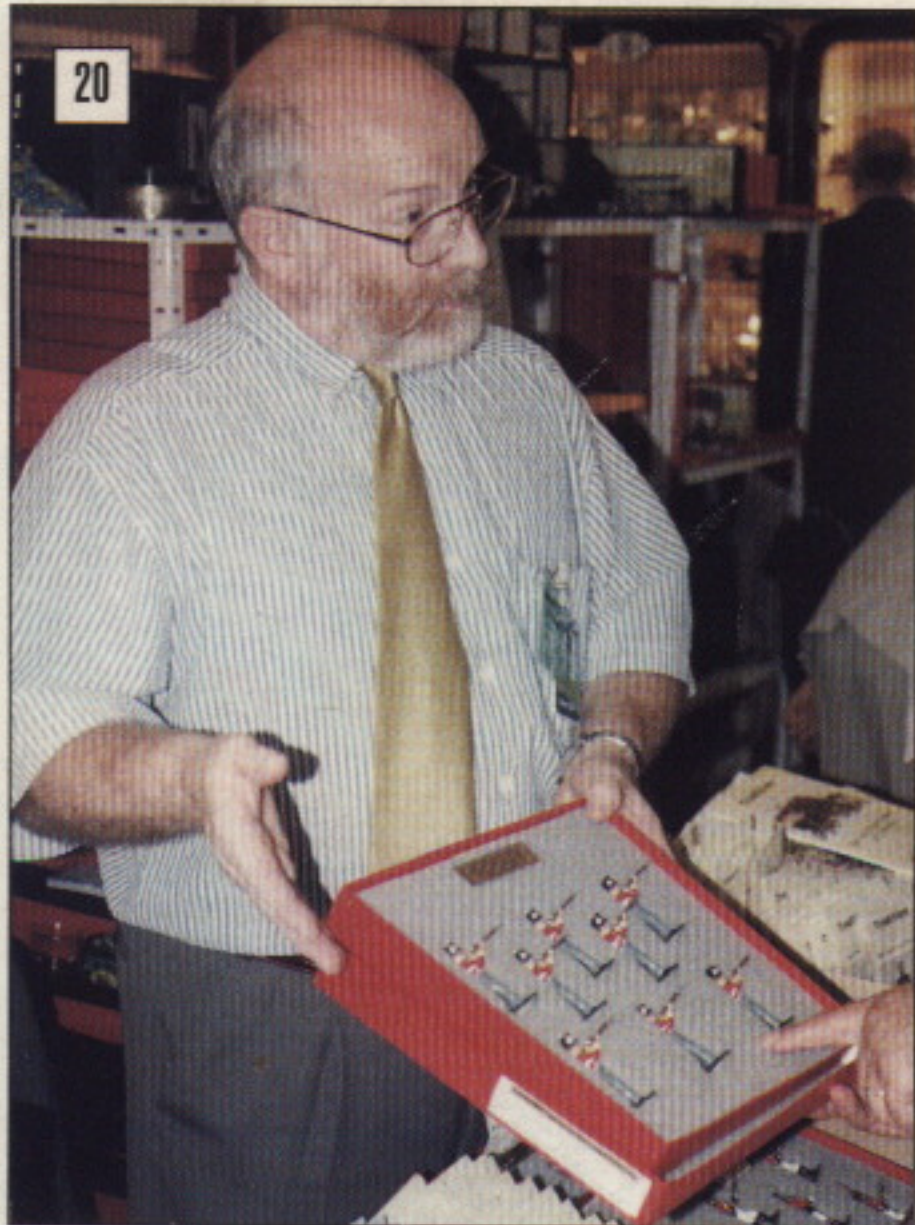
with Bill Horan (who was judging), he pointed this out to me and we were both at pains as to how the bottom shelf could be effectively lit. For me the cases afforded excellent security for the models and perfect viewing conditions and I was informed that this type of show case was very expensive to hire. They certainly were substantial.

The overall standard of modelling was very good and there were some superb pieces on display. It took a long time to take everything in now that the competition is

competitions and who are thus distinguished." This category is further sub-divided into two classes of painted/converted and 'creations' - scratch built and Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals and Certificates of Merit are awarded. The Best of Show awards in the categories would be decided by the votes of all judges.

Other categories for vehicles, military and civil, aircraft, etc., had diorama classes with medals, certificates and, again, a Best of Show for each competition was awarded.

The British did quite well in the competitions which naturally saw plenty of French contes- ►



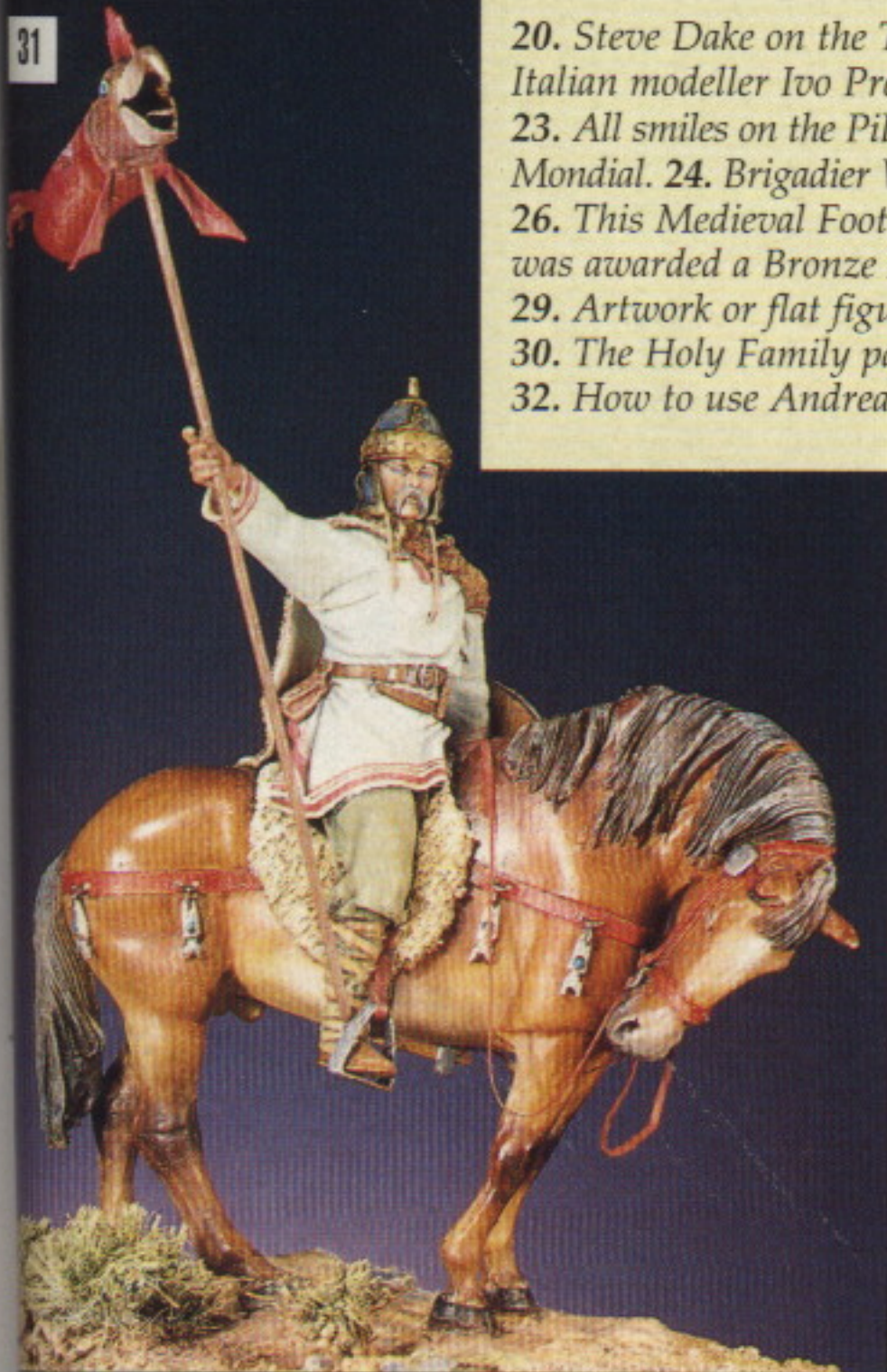
be resolved before the prize giving late on Sunday afternoon.

Some of the British contingent fared well in the competitions - Mike Taylor took one of five Gold Medals awarded in the Master Painters' Category and David Lane one of the nine Bronzes. In the Masters Conversions Category Nick Dransfield won one of the four Gold Medals awarded, with Adrian Bay and Keith Engledow collecting a Silver apiece and Geoffrey Illsley a Bronze. In the Advanced Category Graham Dixey gained one of the Pewter Medals from the 10 awarded.

It came as no real surprise that Spanish modeller Raúl García Latorre took Best of Show and the Mondial Special Award 1997,

tants, but there was a also good number of modellers from Spain and Italy with a Russian or two, and Bill Horan ably flew the flag for America with a display of his excellent work.

There were some 'rumblings' about the judging (like at any show!) but all seemed to



20. Steve Dake on the Tradition stand. 21. The colourful Louis Pierre de Colbert, Guard of Naples 1808 took a Bronze Medal for Italian modeller Ivo Preda. 22. Murat, Colonel of Neapolitan Hussars 1811 won a Bronze Medal for Italy's Valdimiro Corte. 23. All smiles on the PiLiPiLi stand - designer Lee Van Quang and his wife Annemie displayed their new Ronin figure kit at the Mondial. 24. Brigadier W. Harding by Castillo Penul of Spain. 25. Blackbeard by British modeller Nick Dransfield took a Gold Medal. 26. This Medieval Foot Soldier by Russian Modeller Andrei Bleskine was awarded a Silver Medal. 27. The Alma, September 1854 was awarded a Bronze Medal for Italian modeller Nello Riveccio. 28. Jacques Inger's Trumpeter 1st Cuirassier Regiment. 29. Artwork or flat figurine? The Holy Family, unpainted, by Italians Bianca and Alberto Mussini won a Gold Medal. 30. The Holy Family painted by the Mussinis. 31. Keith Engledow won a Silver Medal with his Gothic Standard Bearer. 32. How to use Andrea Miniatures acrylic paints being demonstrated.

going by the cheers for this young modeller when he went to collect his award, what a popular choice he was! Definitely a modeller to watch. Many readers will be familiar with his model designs for the Elite range.

I'm looking forward to next year's show. The Paris location does help and we took in a visit to The Army Museum at Invalides and a morning out at Versailles for those who wished to go.

I couldn't compare this year's event with the first Mondial, and had to rely on the opinions of those who did, but as a model show it has such potential and, after all, it can only get better!

Special thanks must go to Dominique Breffort and our friends at *Figurines* magazine for supplying the photographs of the competition models.



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New Jersey

Phil Kessling reports on this year's event

The 1997 New Jersey Show was a nice mix of the old and the new. Many of the familiar names in the hobby were in attendance exhibiting their work. There were also some interesting exhibits by new and emerging artists.

Another exciting development was the launching of a new manufacturer, Time Machine Miniatures. They released several excellent 54mm Celts sculpted by Rendall Patton and based on Angus McBride paintings. The figures were flawlessly cast in metal and were the talk of the show.

A highlight of the show was the inclusion of several exhibits by international artists.

The work of Jesús Gamarra and Mike Blank were displayed courtesy of The Red Lancers and it was a rare treat to be able to view the work of these two fine painters. Jesús Gamarra's detail painting is nothing short of amazing. The embroidered border of his "Ephaltite Nobleman's" tunic had a pattern which was individually shaded and highlighted. I also thought the surcoat on Mike Blank's Teutonic Knight was a study in the painting of the colour white.

A stunning piece of military miniature art, painted by an unidentified Russian artist, was a 120mm Timurid Warlord. Its intricately painted tunic attracted attention through-

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out the show. The figure was accompanied by a Russian Wolfhound (Borzoi) and was launching a hawk from its arm. I had the opportunity to photograph a second rendition of this same figure, painted with an equally impressive patterned tunic. This is a casting that I would definitely like to paint. I was particularly impressed by the sculptor's lifelike portrayals of the dog and hawk.

Steven Brown is a 'new' name whose work caught my eye. I particularly liked his 'Geronimo' bust and 'Sergeant Black Watch'. Kevin Ullrich displayed one of the previously mentioned 54mm Celts as well as a nice rendition of Metal Modeles' 'French Dragoon Officer'. Another new face was John Dulleschi whose display included a bust of 'Robert E. Lee.' Phil Rubin's painting talents continue to improve as evinced by his 'Rogers Rangers' bust. Carrie Redick combined a Terry Worster vignette with some very original groundwork to create a poignant scene, titled "A Distant Farewell." This was only her second work and she earned a bronze medal for it. Paul Meuse exhibited a scratch built vignette of the '28th North Carolina.'

Mike Hall always has a display of well-painted figures. This year was no exception, with his two Confederate Standard-bearers being the highlight. Roland Laffert displayed a 'Mounted Thracian Cavalryman' converted from the Pegaso foot figure. Roger Eggert's 'One Shot-One Kill' was probably his best work to date. Its life-like jungle foliage made

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1. Roland Laffert's 54mm Thracian cavalryman - a Pegaso kit conversion.

2. Standard bearer of the 1st Tennessee converted from a 100mm Michael Roberts' figure by Mike Hall.

3. The Soldiers Lucchetti 90mm 13th century knight painted by Roland Laffert.

4. Paul Meuse's 90mm original creation of the '28th North Carolina'.

5. Jésus Gamarra 'Saracen Raiders' - 54mm stock Miles figures.

6. Mike Blank's treatment of Andrea Miniatures' 54mm Knight Hospitaller.



7. Prussian Infantry 1916 by Andrei Korabanics was a 54mm Metal Modeles stock figure.

8. The one that caused a stir - a 120mm Timurid Warlord maker and modeller unknown! If you know whose it is write to the author via the Editor.

9. Mike Leonard's 100mm Flying Tigers pilot.

10. Geronimo - PiLiPiLi's 200mm bust painted by Steven Brown.

11. Sergeant of the Black Watch c.1885 - a Michael Roberts' kit conversion by Steven Brown.





12. The new 54mm Time Machine Miniatures' Celt painted by Kevin Ullrich.

13. Good Stuff's 200mm bust of General Robert E. Lee painted by John Dulleschi.

14. Chota Sahib 54mm Jemadar 15th Regiment by Wayne Tripp.

15. An original model by Jim Holt of an Officer, 36th Regiment of Foot.



16. Pegaso's 90mm Roman Consul modelled by Lou Masses. 17. 'A Distant Farewell' by Carrie Redick used 90mm Terry Worster stock figures. 18. Poste Militaire 70mm Dragoon Trumpeter painted by Dennis Levy. 19. "Napoleon at the Sphinx" - a 54mm boxed diorama made by Dennis Levy. 20. Greg DiFranco's 54mm Metal Modeles 9th Hussar.

it hard to keep from violating the "Don't Touch!" rule. Another very life-like figure was Mike Leonard's 'Flying Tigers pilot'. 'The Chase' was a very dynamic dinosaur diorama by Dave Acker. The animation and sense of urgency were enhanced by Dave's use of a small base. A 'Roman Consul' and 'Foreign Legionnaire' bust were fine examples of Lou Masses' much improved brushwork.

Two masters whose work could not be overlooked were Greg DiFranco and Andrei Koribanics. Greg's '9th Hussar' and 'Jeb Stuart' bust were both impressive examples

of his painting talents. Andrei's display was a showcase of his diverse talents, including his scratch built 'Apollo and Daphne,' a Metal Modeles 54mm WWI Prussian and a highly detailed 1:72 scale WWI German aircraft. Jack Muldoon's 'Louis XV' and '7th Lancer Officer' were the highlights of his display.

Dennis Levy received the Best of Show award for his boxed diorama, "Napoleon at the Sphinx." A day-lit scene is very difficult to depict, yet Dennis did an exceptional job through his use of colours and appropriate lighting. It really looked hot and dusty. ■

OBSERVATION POST

NEWS FOR WARGAMERS
BY STUART ASQUITH

Plastic Napoleonics and AWI

A Call to Arms have added boxes of Napoleonic British light infantry and American War of Independence British Grenadiers to their range of 1:32 scale plastic figures. Each box contains 16 figures, four each of four poses for £4.50 a box. The light infantry are depicted as kneeling ready, kneeling firing, standing firing and charging. The grenadiers are standing firing, marching, priming musket and advancing, so all the poses are usable. The Model Shop (190-194 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1JU, tel: 0181-863 9788) who supplied the review samples stock the full range and provide an excellent mail order service.

WWI Rules

Poor Bloody Infantry is a set of wargame rules for the First World War and an organisation guide for wargame armies. The rules seem quite concise and laid out in an easy to follow format - certainly they contain a great deal of information and are worth their purchase price on this alone. Good comprehensive information and well presented. Written by Richard Watts and published by Agema Publications (3 Worksope Road, Sneinton, Nottingham NG3 2BA), the rules retail at £5.50 including UK postage and packing (£6.50 to European customers, £7.50 elsewhere).

Spanish Civil War

Irregular Miniatures (69a Acomb Road, Holgate, York YO2 4EP) have started a range of 20mm Spanish Civil War figures. There are over 60 castings in the range so far and each has up to four variants in headgear, equipment, etc. All the required 'types' are in the range - militia, regular infantry, Moorish



ABOVE LEFT: The four poses of the 1:32 scale figures in the Napoleonic British light infantry box from Call to Arms. ABOVE RIGHT: Two of the 1:32 scale figures in the American War of Independence British Grenadiers by Call to Arms. BELOW: A selection of 20mm Spanish Civil War types from Irregular Miniatures. BELOW RIGHT: The two mounted figures from the 45mm 13th century range by Campaign Miniatures.



troops, Assault Guards - and there are numerous machine-gun equipped support groups. The individual castings vary in price from 30p for the 'standard' infantryman and 60p for a mounted figure to 90p for an anti-tank gun to £4 for a general purpose civilian lorry. Bargain packs containing 20 infantry chosen from the main figure types are £5 each, as are packs of 10 cavalry (choose from cap, helmet or Moor). There are more releases planned.

Italeri ACW

Italeri have added two boxes of plastic figures to their range of 1:72 scale figures. Both are moulded in silver-grey plastic and set in the American Civil War. The first (Ref. 6011) features Confederate cavalry and there are 16 mounted cavalrymen - including an officer and standard bearer - in a variety of action poses, plus one trooper kneeling on the ground and firing a pistol over his dead horse. There are 16 separate horses, again in a variety of poses and each attached to a base. The second box (Ref. 6012) features Union infantrymen with zouaves, with a total of 50 figures in a useful selection of poses. There are three officers, a drummer, a flag bearer, 26 infantry in kepis, six in Hardee hats and greatcoats, nine

zouaves and three dismounted kneeling cavalrymen - a good value and nicely varied boxful!

Württembergers

Firing Line Miniatures (78 Bull Green Road, Longwood,

LEFT: Just a couple of examples of the extensive range of 25mm pre 1810 Napoleonic Württemberg troops from Firing Line Miniatures.

Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD3 4XW) offer an interesting range of 25mm pre 1810 Napoleonic Württemberg troops. There are currently light infantry wearing horsehair helmets, line infantry, mounted jägers and chevauleger. Most have separate heads for which there is often a choice of up to four variants. The cavalry troopers also have a separate sword arm, of which there are two variants - with sword or with pistol. The detail on the castings is very good indeed and the figures are beautifully designed. The figures are 65p each with horses 80p each. Postage and packing is 10% UK, (orders over £50 free) 30% Europe. Cheques payable to A. Fort please.

45mm Medievals

Campaign Miniatures (The Old Rectory, Wortham, Diss, Norfolk IP22 1SL) recently started a range of 45mm 13th century medieval figures. So far there are eight figures on foot and two mounted knights. The size of the figures does tend to vary slightly within the range, but if you fancy a medieval skirmish, these could fit the bill very well. Castings are 70p each for foot figures, £2.15 for a mounted figure with a horse. The figures are also available painted at £3 and £4.95 respectively. Postage and packing is 10% UK, 20% overseas, minimum 40p.

WWI 20mm

It Figures! (193 St Margaret's Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4HN) have now added figures for World War One to their 20mm range. There are currently British troops in helmets, Scottish troops in helmets, German soldiers in helmets, German storm troopers and French in helmets. The figures are 36p each and the range also includes support weapons such as



a Vickers machine-gun with three crew, a Stokes mortar and crew, a 7.6cm *Minenwerfer* and crew all at £1.50 per pack. Artillery crews consist of five figures and retail at £2 per pack. Also available in 20mm from this manufacturer is an extensive WW2 range and a Napoleonic range.

Dean Forest Figures

Dean Forest Figures (62 Grove Road, Berry Hill, Coleford, Gloucestershire GL16 8QX) recently sent in some attractive examples of their figure painting service. The company offer three standards of painting - wargames, wargames plus and collector's. To provide a price comparison, a 25mm infantryman would cost £1.25, £2 or £4 respectively through the three levels. Similarly, cavalry are £2.50, £4 and £7. Basing is extra and infantry would cost an additional 25p, 25p and 70p, or cavalry 35p, 35p or 90p in our three examples. For further details of this really very high standard painting service, send a ssae to the stated address.

GHQ Micro Armour

Chiltern Miniatures (1 Elmbourne Road, London SW17 8JS, tel: 0181-673 9069) import the 1:285 scale GHQ Micro Armour white metal range from the USA. The range covers most of the vehicles used in WWII and a significant number of modern vehicles. There is also an extensive range of 1:2400 WWI, WWII and modern naval vessels. Chiltern Miniatures also stock a number of other interesting ranges and it could be worthwhile sending an A4 ssae for a copy of their current product list.



MILITARY VEHICLES

Britannia 1:76 scale trio - Horsch Kfz 17, Humber Scout Car and Soviet T70.



Well, it is that time of year, or it seems that with the summer comes all the demands from the family for decorating, going out and so on. Work never gives up and some kind of lethargy sets in on the modelling front. It doesn't mean everything stops, but I find it difficult to settle on a major project and, at the moment, I have one which is trying my patience, but more of this another time. Is it just me or do others have similar feelings? Nice, however, to have some smaller, simpler pieces to turn to, and get an end result in fairly quick time.

CMSC

Continental Model Supply Company are first, with a little accessory set that goes down as possibly my favourite for the year so far. Regular followers of the column may remember my liking for the JB Models' Bedford in 1:76 scale, it was just let down by some over simplification on some parts. The answer now comes from CMSC who have a set that provides the front steps, replacement rear mudguards, all the stowage boxes, slave unit, spare wheel carrier, fuel tank, battery box, wing mirrors and cab-top platform, plus the radiator grille, Bedford name plate and Vauxhall badge for the front of the cab, in etched steel.

There is a general arrangement drawing supplied, but I have to be honest and say that this could be improved. Having spoken to Horst, I believe he will look at this afresh, so there may be a change (I hope). You would need a set of scale drawings or suitable photographic references to get exactly the right placement of some of the bins and the fuel tank beneath the load bed. Looking at some drawings in a past issue of Tankette, the platform on top of the cab looks a bit too tapered toward the front edge, though I don't think there is a lot in it. Beyond these relatively minor quibbles, this set really puts the whole thing up about three notches.

The added details for the cab, like the steps, the grille, the side-

lights, wing mirrors and the headlight guards really do make a world of difference to the look of the whole thing. Moving back, the rear lights on the stowage boxes, plus the proper shape fuel tank all stand out when you compare an updated kit with one that hasn't been. If you get the JB Models kit then you really need to get one of these to go with it. Well done to CMSC, it's available from them at 36 Gray Gardens, Rainham, Essex, RM13 7NH.

Scale Model Accessories

Small Scale Productions, the 1:76 scale range from Scale Model Accessories, has added one of its largest models to date in this scale. An interesting and unusual choice of subject, it's the German Kaebler Z6V2A tractor unit, complete with a Gotha 80-tonne trailer. A German tank transporter combination makes a change, and one capable of carrying the later heavy tanks, rather than the lighter trailers which have gone before. The Kaebler bears something of a resemblance to the Diamond T to my eye, with its long bonnet, the shape of the cab and then the rear bodywork. I know it's not identical, it just reminded me of it.

Most of the model is in polyurethane resin, with the axles and other smaller details in metal. The only problem with mine was with the windscreen, which was very fragile, and had broken away before it got to me, despite some neat packaging. Beyond that, assembly was quite straightforward, and the assembly diagrams are good.

The little bit of history given tells you these tractors were used from 1935, right up to the end of the war. To go with it comes the Gotha trailer. This is a really solid looking piece of equipment and a two-part chassis needs to have the no less than 12 axle positions drilled through. There are 24 resin wheels, and the 12 axles themselves are metal, which gives strength to the model itself. The main load is a single piece resin casting. Again I found no problems with the fit of parts and



Bedford MK in 1:76 scale - from JB Models with CMSC update set.

assembly is easy enough in one evening's work. To go with this whole combination, they also supply two heavy loading ramps which are separate items, not part of the trailer as we are used to with what I might describe as the more common Allied tank transporters. When you put the whole combination together it is most impressive. It is good to see a heavy transporter for the late war German tanks, and an interesting comparison to the Scammells and Diamond Ts. It offers some interesting diorama opportunities. Available from Scale Model Accessories, at 160 Green Street, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 7LB.

SHQ

SHQ just keep on expanding their range of metal wargames models. This is where we have to ask what the line is between a wargames and a collector's model. These increasingly straddle the line, and I'm sure most small scale modellers are finding out just how good this range is.

Among recent releases are two more early war British AFVs, in the form of the A13, or Cruiser Mark III and IV. In fact, they do both, and include optional parts (gun barrels) to allow you to build the CS (Close Support) versions as well. Both are clearly very similar, but the extra armour around the turret on the Mark IV makes it look quite different. Assembly is relatively simple, just hull, turret, track units plus a few smaller parts such as gun barrels, hatch and exhaust.

The only 'slight pain' is cleaning out any flash from between the track shoes, where the mould line runs from end to end, down the centre of the trackwork itself. Not the end of the world, just a bit tedious. Fit of parts was good and the end result very pleasing. A clear set of assembly instructions are included and one of the good things about the whole series has been the attention to presentation, which is good. SHQ are at 34 Copland Close, Basingstoke, Hants, RG22 4JX.

Accurate Armour

Accurate Armour have released their latest catalogue. This time with some colour photos on the covers and in the centre pages. If you have an interest in their excellent ranges of kits and accessories, then this is for you. One of the points I especially like is that along with the details of each kit they acknowledge the builder of the original master model. This is an element which I think the hobby has a tendency to miss a bit too often. We sit and talk about all sorts of models, and their production, but there's no getting away from the skill needed to make the original master models. So, a nice bit of recognition for the builders of the masters within the Accurate Armour range.

What may attract many of us, however, are the number of future project items that are detailed throughout the pages of this latest catalogue. I won't mention them all, you'll have to see the catalogue for that, but to give you a taster, they mention the Black Prince, Tortoise, Ferret, Abbott, Stalwart, T28 Superheavy, and Chieftain AVLB (Armoured Vehicle Launched Bridge) among others. Purely from a personal point of view the AVLB promises to be most impressive, but there are others that I'm sure will hold the interest for many modellers. Add to this all their existing range, and the more recently released items, along with details of the decal sheets, Trakpax and other figures and accessories. It just goes to show how far 'Cottage Industries' have come in the last 10 years or so. Available from Accurate Armour at Units 15-16, Kingston Industrial Estate, Port Glasgow, Inverclyde, Scotland PA14 5DG.

Aber

Aber etched brass is a new range of etched brass accessory sets, from Poland, and imported by Historex Agents. There is an extensive catalogue for the range, well illustrated with the silhouette of the frets, showing how much is included in them. As well as gen-

eral use sheets, such as various sizes of mesh and non-slip floor plate, there are specific detail sets for particular vehicles.

The first and most obvious thing is the high quality etched brass sheet itself. These are lovely! The first example is 35 027, for the 7.5cm *Pak 40/L46*, intended for either the Italeri or Tamiya models. The largest pieces are the two halves of the replacement gun shield. You need to make rivets from sprue to join these as spaced armour, and an explanation for how to do it is laid out on the very good instruction sheet. All done with diagrams, no language barrier here.

Equally, all the parts are clearly numbered on the fret itself. Lots of tiny details to be fitted, even down to working hinges! I don't know about you, but when looking at a real artillery piece, and then comparing most plastic kits of them, they do often look a little bare. The 7.5cm *Pak40* certainly doesn't need to any more details after this Aber set.

Set 35013 is for the Tamiya or Dragon *PzKpfw IV Ausf J* and consists of two large and one very small etched sheets, the small one is the ventilator for the turret roof. Just to give you some idea of what you'll find, there are replacement front trackguards, all the assorted tool holder brackets, many improvements for the tools themselves, and the replacement exhausts, complete with the internal vanes. The instructions in this case stretch to four sides of A4 paper. These parts are not for the faint hearted, but if you want to add details to bring your models up to exhibition standards then this is for you. Available from Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ. They list the *Pak* set at £9.25 and the *PzKpfw IV Ausf J* at £11.45, which, in my opinion, is very reasonable for what you get.

MMS

MMS have added two models to their ranges. One is in their 'Restricted Issue' series and the other in the Gun packs. The restricted issue series are models that are not automatically supplied and are really conversions of existing models in the range. Previous examples have been the Dodge Weapons Carrier and Command Cars, where the standard range kits are with or without the winch, while the alternative fit is covered in the Restricted Issue alternatives.

The latest to get this treatment is the *StuG III Ausf A*, but now fitted with a long barrelled 7.5cm gun. Just to help, a couple of photos of the real things are included just to show this real-life conversion did see action. As a kit, of course, it makes use of parts



ABOVE LEFT: SHQ's 1:76 scale British A13 Cruiser. ABOVE RIGHT: SdKfz 10 in 1:76 scale from Milicast.



already existing in the MMS range and the end result is an unusual variant. Instruction notes and diagram are provided in their usual style and these metal models are well detailed, and cast to a very high standard, so it all comes out nice and crisp on the castings and assembly is quite straightforward.

Incidentally, just to catch up on an earlier column, when I mentioned the thickness of the side walls on the Phenomen Granit 1500, I was rightly taken to task by Barry of MMS for not reading the instructions properly, as they mention this and tell you to thin them down. "It's a fair cop guv", complacency reared its head, and I didn't read them and after all the comments I make about providing the things I suppose it serves me right.

In the series of gun packs, the US 3in AT gun is now available and although first announced a few months earlier, it is now on sale. I still think that metal does well for artillery pieces, thanks to its strength on what are usually quite bitty subjects. It isn't the first kit of this gun to come on the market, but I do think it is the best. MMS are at 26 Crescent Rise, Luton, Beds, LU2 0AU.

Britannia Miniatures

Britannia Miniatures are a series of wargames vehicles and figures. We first saw some of their AFVs a year or so ago, cast in polyester resin, with metal detail parts, they have greatly expanded their range. While these are not for the purist collector, they are good wargames models. If what you want is quantity of specific vehicles, or to make up complete units rather than the most finely detailed model on the market, then these will suit you.

The main bodies are resin castings, with larger items, such as turrets, cast separately. Wheels and gun barrels are in metal. The resin castings are to a good standard, and certainly on my examples I didn't find any air bubble blemishes to be dealt with. I suppose they are on a par with S&S and the (now closed) Archer Models ranges. They are intended to fit in with Britannia's own figures. Among those I have seen are a Humber Scout car, the *SdKfz 222* and a Soviet T70. All

are very neat, each one being not much more than a 10 minute assembly job.

Many will be pleased to see the open hatches, such as on the T70, as well as most having stowage such as tarpaulins, already cast integrally with the body. When seen en masse they look very effective. Undercoat with primer and the model is ready to be painted and finished. Available from Britannia Miniatures, 33 St Mary's Road, Halton Village, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2BJ.

Fine Scale Factory

Fine Scale Factory is a range of 1:72 scale models from Germany, but now imported to the UK by Belrock Models in Scotland. I first saw one of the range two or three years ago when they were a bit 'primitive', but as with so many manufacturers over the years, they have improved with more experience. Two I have on hand are really not bad. One is a 3.7cm *Flak 36* and the other is an *einheitsdiesel* truck. The 3.7 is an all metal model, boxed and with no assembly instructions. It isn't up to the standards being set by the likes of MMS and SHQ, but that doesn't mean it's not all right. Assembly is not difficult to work out, helped a bit by the colour photo on the box. As the German army mounted this weapon on a number of different chassis, there is plenty you can do with it.

The *einheits* is a resin body, with metal detail parts. The body and tilt are well cast in polyurethane resin while the wheels and other detail is metal. In this instance an assembly diagram is included and it is a nice solid model and simple to assemble. If these are examples of the recent standards from Fine Scale Factory, then they are worth checking out. Available from Belrock Models, 29 Belrock Avenue, Prestwick, Scotland KA9 1SQ.

Convoy Models

Convoy Models have released a number of new models since they acquired the 1:76 scale Model Transport range. Among these is a subject unusual not only in itself, but because it is

Japanese and it is still relatively rare to see a model of Japanese equipment and the Type 98 6-ton artillery tractor along with a Type 92 105mm gun is a good choice. The gun tractor is an unarmoured, full tracked prime mover, also used apparently as a reconnaissance vehicle and ammunition carrier. The Type 92 was a field gun, with spoked wheels and solid rubber tyres. Other than these few facts, given on the instruction sheet, I must admit to knowing little or nothing about this equipment and I think that is what makes it that little more interesting.

There are two bags in the box, one for each item, and all the parts are cast in polyurethane resin, and have come out very cleanly. The body of the tractor is particularly good, with the detail nice and crisp. The smaller parts are cast on a resin sprue, and these do have a web of resin flash to be carefully removed with a sharp craft knife. Not difficult at all, you just need to be careful not to damage either the parts or yourself. The same applies to removing the same web from within the track units. Similar comments apply to the gun itself.

Since taking over the existing Model Transport series, Convoy have gradually added some unusual, and good quality products to the range. Available from Convoy, 23 Mare Bay Close, St Leonard's on Sea, East Sussex TN38 8EQ.

Matador

Matador, who took over the Model Transport armoured train and more recently the whole Airfield Accessories range, have released the first couple of conversions of their own. An early one among these is, not surprisingly, a Matador conversion for the old Airfix kit. This one turns it into a flat bed version, with replacement parts for the wheels, fuel tank, cab back and interior, plus a choice of two alternative roofs. There are no instructions provided, but with something like this where you are just replacing kit supplied parts, this shouldn't prove a problem. Available from Matador Models, 6 Cliffe Road, Barton on Sea, New Milton, Hants, BH25 7PB. ■

READERS' LETTERS

Why always the air-brush?

Dear Sir,
I am writing to congratulate you and your team on an excellent magazine, it seems to go from strength to strength with each issue. The new four-weekly publishing regime has taken a bit of getting used to, but I'm getting there! Keep up the good work.

However, onto other matters. I have a gripe to make and it is this. Why do the majority of kit reviewers automatically assume that all model makers have got a 'Revtec 3000' Airbrush on the shelf? What has happened to the days of the number 2 or 3 brush and a tin of Humbrol?

Personally, I am on the wrong side of 35 and have been making models for longer than I care to remember. (The first kit that I built was the old Airfix H0/00 scale Churchill MkVII. Anyone else remember the fun and games trying to get 20-odd road wheels to stay in place whilst trying to fix two side plates to a main hull body?)

Anyway, to the point/s of this letter. I do not own, nor have I ever owned an airbrush, not through choice, but through pure economics. In plain English, I can't afford one. I feel that it must be disheartening to; (a) the new/young modeller who when he/she gets to the part of a kit review that says, "With my Revtec 3000 Airbrush, I sprayed the first coat, then I ...etc." And (b) a parent who, has to say to little Johnny, "Sorry son, I can't afford to buy you one". I am sure that there are lots of young/new modellers who feel or think that they can only complete their models to a high standard if they are in possession of one of the offending tools with all the associated paraphernalia.

I appreciate that the majority of professional model makers do have/use an airbrush, but please remember those of us that do not. This is the main reason that I, and I am sure a lot of others do not do, the intricate sprayed camouflage patterns of units like the Wehrmacht or modern US armour, etc., preferring to stay with the single colour or hard edged camouflage schemes instead.

In essence, what I am asking is, please can we have an article or three on painting a model (including some hints on how to

get that soft-edged sprayed effect to a camouflage pattern) without the use of an airbrush?

Ian Dunn

John Prigent described a simple brush technique to produce German camouflage, for non-airbrush owners, in his Tank Modelling Course in the June 1996 issue. Ed.

Who makes it?

Dear Sir,
I enjoy your magazine very much. It is full of hints and information on figures. I find that over half of the figures I purchase are because I have seen them in your magazine.

However, it does have its frustrations. In Vol.27 Issue 2, page 38, is a photo of entries of the 1996 Chicago Show. It is a 200mm bust of a 7th Cavalryman painted by Ron Sousa. However, nowhere in the article does it mention who manufactures the bust and if it is available in Europe. In future would you please include such information in your articles so we can work on them instead of salivating over them.

Stanley Regal

We do publish the details when we have them, but it's not always possible to have full details on figures in competitions. Point taken Mr Regal and I know all our correspondents reading your letter will take note. Ed.

I'd like a pen pal

Dear Sir,
May I start this letter by saying how good your magazine is, and as a young modeller I often find it invaluable as a reference source. I would also like to say that the Tank Modelling Course was a superb idea and that I will miss it for help with my modelling. I hope that there are plans to do a similar series with 54mm/1:35 scale WWII and modern figures.

I have just brought the latest copy of your magazine and loved the article on the Swiss Panzer museum, but I have noticed a mistake in the article. In picture number 15 it is said to be a Universal Carrier with a canvas tilt, although I would like to point out that it is not a Universal Carrier but a Windsor carrier as built by the Canadians. I do not know if this was an error by the magazine or at The Museum, but I

hope this helps to clarify this for people who were confused by the picture.

After seeing the article on the Swiss Tank Museum, I have become interested in the *Nahkampfskanone II/NKII Gustav* and would like to find references or any information a modeller would be willing to pass on, as I would like to try and scratch build this model. I would be willing to pay for any postal charges, etc.

I would also like to start a pen pal friendship with any young modeller anywhere who is interested in the following types of kits: WWII British; Russian; American; German; French and Italian armour and figures in 1:35/54mm.

Finally, as I come to the end of this long letter, I would like to know if Hornet Figures produce either a yearly catalogue or a price list, as I am very fond of these figures for their crispness and the vast range of British figures, and almost use them in all my models.

Ross Mahoney

8 Hadleigh Gardens, Frimley Green, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6NJ.

Hornet do, indeed, have illustrated information with a price list on their range. Write to Roger Saunders (Hornet Miniatures), 290 Queen's Road, London SE14 5JN. Or tel/fax: 0171 639 9409 for further information. The mistake in the Thun Museum article was ours. Ed.

Thank you

Dear Sir,
The members of the Bognor Regis Military Modelling and Wargaming Society, have asked me to write to you to thank you for putting the details about our 'open afternoon' on 1st June in your magazine. The response was excellent, attendance was about two to three times what we had been able to achieve on our earlier attempt without help from the modelling press.

As a small society 'out in the sticks' it takes considerable effort for us to put on an 'open afternoon' and the task is made considerably easier with help from whatever quarter.

I think that everybody who attended had a most enjoyable afternoon including the groups from the Rustington, Worthing and Chichester Wargames Clubs who attended and either helped with, or put on, games.

We had about 100 people through the door including visitors from Aldershot, Portsmouth and Southampton as a direct response to your help.

Once more, thank you very much indeed.

Bruce Upstone

Prussian Hussars at Quatre Bras

Dear Sir,
With reference to the letter from Marc Schaftenaar published in the 'Despatch' section of Vol.27, No.9, concerning "Sharpe's Waterloo". At the end of his comments on the Dutch Belgian Army he asks for information about the 50 Prussian Hussars at Quatre Bras.

David Hamilton-Williams on page 188 of his Waterloo New Perspectives mentions these men, but merely states, "On the way they met a patrol of 50 Silesian Hussars under the command of Premier Lieutenant Zehelin. These Prussian soldiers had been cut off during their retreat the day before and had agreed to accompany Perponcher and assist him".

Hamilton-Williams does not give any authority for this statement neither does he give the patrol's parent unit. At the time there were only two regiments of Silesian Hussars with the Prussian Field Army. The 1st which formed part of von Lützow's Brigade, Reserve Cavalry, 1st Corps under Lt. Gen von Zieten whilst the 2nd was included in von Sydon's Brigade, Reserve Cavalry, 4th Corps, under Gen. Bülow von Dennewitz which was not engaged at Ligny.

It is certain that the patrol in question was found by the 1st Silesian Hussars, a résumé of whose history mentions that they were engaged on the 15th June at Gosselies, on the 16th at Ligny and on the 18th at Belle-Alliance, whilst that for the 2nd shows them as first engaged at Belle-Alliance, which it should be noted is the name by which Waterloo is known in the Prussian Army.

The 1914 designation of the 1st Silesian Hussars was: Husaren-Regiment von Schill (1. Schlesiisches) Nr. 4.

A regimental history was published in 1893 entitled *Braune Husaren* by Freiherr von Wechmar which covered the

period 1742-1893.

I trust that the above is of some help to Mr. Schaftenaar.
Brian D.N. Stevens

Nuts and bolts features

Dear Sir,
After many years of reading your excellent magazine, I now find the need to throw you a few lines and offer a couple of comments on 'matters military'.

First off, I've found the 'nuts and bolts' photo features to be absolutely brilliant. Plenty of detail for us modellers who don't get to see the real thing very often. I must also say you've really outdone yourselves with the I.F.O.R. coverage in recent issues - as a result, a couple more vehicles have joined my 'future projects' list. That's the creeping over and done with - now on the main point.

Where (uh-oh!) are the 'in-depth' kit builds of Scorpion, Scimitar and Warrior? I've read the coverage of the C.V.R.T. vehicles in the tank modelling course, and the Warrior was mentioned in 'Atten-shun!' (where you promised a complete feature). But I, and I hope I'm not alone here, as referring to the kind of feature supplied by the brilliant Mr Brian Wells (to name just one!). My own

model collection is gearing itself towards British Vehicles in the Gulf, U.N., I.F.O.R. and Batus colours and placing them in diorama settings (no Panzers!).

I'm going to start with an accurate Challenger of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in the Gulf War, hopefully to a similar standard as the likes of Mr Wells, but it would be good to see these subjects, given the same attention to detail and use of materials, done by other modellers. This could inspire others, and may even encourage 'Mainstream' manufacturers to produce a few more kits. A search through a 1997 kit listing (in an American magazine) showed little to look forward to! (Cromwell and Accurate Armour aside).

I hope 1996 wasn't a one-off year. Surely C.V.R.T. and Warrior were not met by a collective yawn because there wasn't another Panzer variant (oops! I hear rumblings). If past letters to your magazine are anything to go by, modern British vehicles were quite high on a lot of modellers' wants lists (and we've all got one).

Anyway, I hope these articles are in the offing, in the meantime, keep up the fine work and the current rate of issues!
Neil D. Hopgood
We haven't forgotten Warrior. Ed.

'CRIES FOR HELP'

● Can any reader help me please. I am after any information/pictures of the interior of the SdKfz 251/22 the German half-track which mounted the complete upper carriage of the Pak 40. I have most publications on the 251, but can only find two pictures of the interior and these are not really enough to start a project. Does anyone know if one of these vehicles is still in existence in a museum or private collection where I can get hold of pictures. Thanking you in anticipation.

Dave Pratt, c/o Farm Fare, 26 North Street, Ashburton, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 7QD.

● I am searching for two 'out of production' kits: Ravenswood's Indigo Jack Pirate and The Flying Dutchman. If anyone has these figures for sale or trade, please contact me quoting price.
Peter Shaw, Richard Wagner Str. 8, 55118 Mainz, Germany.

● I need plans or photographs of the following vehicles: Israel's 155mm M50 Gun Howitzer based on the French Obusier MLE 50; Soltam's M68 155mm Gun Howitzer L-33, Soltam's

160mm Mortar. All based on modified Sherman chassis. I will pay for photocopying or postage charges, and will be willing to swap information from other IDF vehicles. Any help would be appreciated.

Jose Antonio Aded Guerra, Calle Maestro Breton 3-7° 13, 12005 Castellon, Spain.

● Can anyone help me with the positions of the allied squares (especially the Hanoverian squares) in relation to each other at about 5 o'clock during the battle of Waterloo. Any general correspondence about this battle is also welcome.

Marwin Albertema, Vrijheidslaan 204, 2321, DR Leiden, The Netherlands.

● Fourteen months ago I asked for information about Monogram's military range. Can all readers who sent in Monogram material please contact me to let me know if they would like their material returned. Also, did the Beobwgn Panther Ausf G see service in WWII? I have received conflicting views in response to my last 'Cry for Help'.

Gary Watson, 8 York Close, Westwood Grange, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 9TN.

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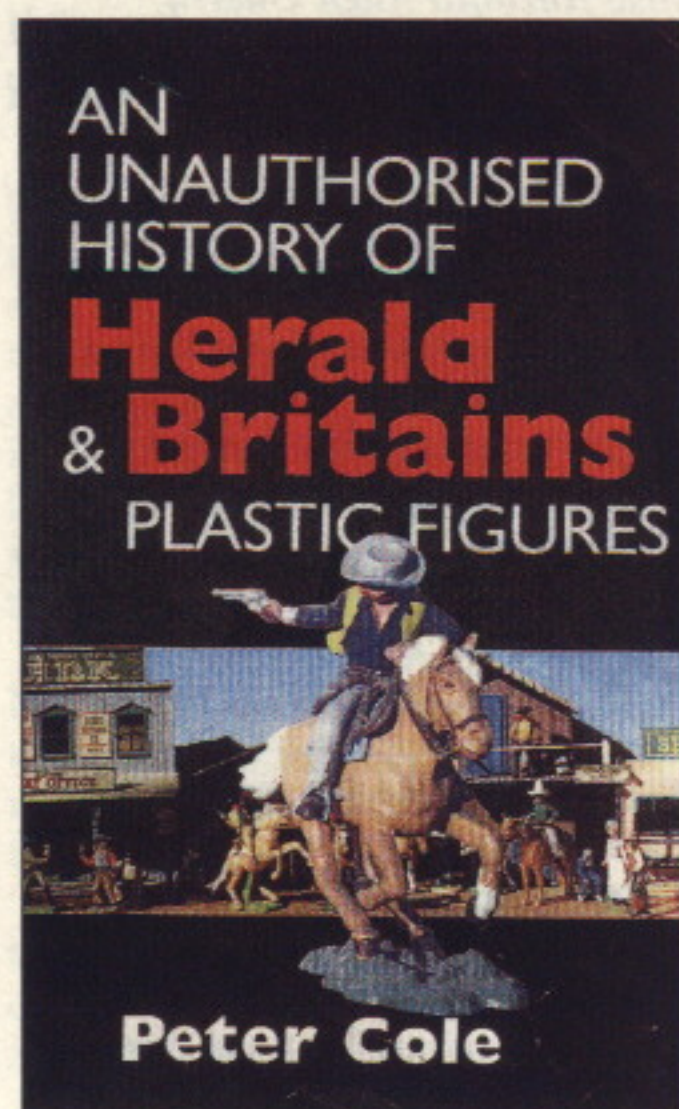
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Peter Cole's 'unauthorised' history.

British Toy Soldier and Figure Show

The date of the next British Toy Soldier and Figure Show is 6th December, to be held in the customary venue of The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way in London. Details of this event are available from the organiser Norman Joplin, 29 Greenlaw Road, Southfield Green, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 6NP.

Herald & Britains

Suspended Animation: An Unauthorised History of Herald & Britain's Plastic Figures is the result of a labour of love by its author Peter Cole. A figure sculptor himself, Peter worked in the design department at Britain's Walthamstow factory. He has designed for Marksman and Matchbox and now runs his own company Replicants in

Lewes. The book is the story of the pioneering British plastic toy soldier firm, covering such aspects as the obscure beginnings, interviews with people at the heart of the story, the merger between Britains and Herald, and the consequences.

The text is supported by over 200 photographs of figures, people and places, diagrams explaining production processes and an appendix featuring line drawings of every plastic figure officially released by the company. Published by Plastic Warrior, this highly recommended book is available from Peter Cole, The Workshop, 164 High Street, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1XU for £15 plus £3 postage and packing UK, £5 Europe, £3.50 surface or £7.50 air to the USA. Cheques payable to Peter Cole, UK sterling currency only, no credit cards.

Sharpe's Eagle

Tradition of London Limited (33 Curzon Street, Mayfair, London W1Y 7AE) have issued a new set of figures based on the Sharpe television drama and entitled Sharpe's Eagle. The set (Ref SR2 £49.50) features Richard Sharpe with his captured French eagle, Sergeant Harper, Sergeant Obadiah Hakeswill, a drummer and two privates of The South Essex Regiment. All the figures are also available in unpainted kit form at £4.25 each.

Balkans Turks

Monmouth Metal Toys, (Retreat House, Dorchester Road, Broadway, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 5LN) have started a new 'Conversion Range' of traditional toy soldiers. Using bodies, head changes, packs etc. figures are produced to supplement the



A selection of Turkish Army soldiers from the Balkan Wars 1912-1913 period from Monmouth Metal Toys.



Tradition of London Limited have issued this new set of figures based on the Sharpe television drama and entitled Sharpe's Eagle.



These 45mm 13th century medieval figures are by Campaign Miniatures.

existing Britain's types. So far, attention has been concentrated on the Balkan Wars 1912-1913 and include a selection of Turkish Army soldiers. Thus far there are infantry at the ready, prone, running, charging and at attention, plus lancers and cavalrymen with drawn sabres. These are supplied as boxed sets of eight infantry figures for £35 plus £1 postage and packing, or five cavalry figures for £50, or an artillery piece and four gunners for £40, both plus £2 postage and packing.

45mm Medievals

Campaign Miniatures (The Old Rectory, Wortham, Diss, Norfolk IP22 1SL) recently started a range of 45mm 13th century medieval figures. So far there are eight figures on foot and two mounted knights. The size of the figures does tend to vary slightly within the range, but if you fancy trying your hand at painting some knights or staging a medieval combat, these could fit the bill very well. Castings are 70p each for foot figures, £2.15 for a mounted figure with a horse. The figures are also available painted at £3 and £4.95

respectively. Postage and packing is 10% UK, 20% overseas, minimum 40p.

Frontline SA Miniatures

Frontline SA (210 Pinefern, Payne Street, Pinetown, Kwazulu Natal, Republic of South Africa) have been producing figures for the South African market for the last nine years. The company have in the region of 50 different models, all related to South African regional history. Designed by Charles Buchanan and produced by Brian Gavin, the figures range from the Zulu War period through the Boer War and right up to the present day with South African Police and the South African Defence Force. A range of Rhodesian troops and British South African police are also available, the latter complete with dog section. Frontline SA Miniatures does not have a UK agent, but all the figures are available direct from South Africa as single items, either as unpainted castings, gloss painted or matt painted. An enquiry to the stated address should bring details of prices and postage.



ABOVE: British infantry and a Zulu warrior 1879 from Frontline SA. BELOW: The final charge of the Foreign Legion detachment at Camerone in Mexico 1863 as depicted by Lone Warrior.



A patrol of Gordon Highlanders from Frontline Figures UK.

Foreign Legion

Lone Warrior (PO Box 16171, Glasgow G13 1YJ) are a new company producing toy soldiers. Among their range is a series of 'Mexican Adventure' figures which I understand are proving popular with collectors of French Foreign Legion figures. The series includes a limited edition set of 500 issue depicting the final charge of the Foreign Legion detachment at Camerone in Mexico 1863. The certificate which accompanies the set names each man and a number under each base corresponds to the name. A set of these figures is now on display in the Foreign Legion museum at Aubange. This set is available as a painted set

only at £60. There are single figures of French Foreign Legionnaires, at £3 castings, £9 painted) each standing and kneeling firing in campaign dress, supplied with a choice of headwear, either a sombrero or a kepi and there is an accessory pack of a French style back pack with rolled greatcoat to fit them at 75p or 50p (£1.50 painted) if bought with the figure. Also included are two Belgian Legion figures at £3 each (£9 painted) and three figures for the Mexican Republican army at £2.50 (£6 painted) each. Postage and packing is 10% UK, overseas 20%.

Frontline Figures

A set (Ref GH5) of Gordon Highlanders, the 92nd Highland Regiment has been added to the company's range of British Colonial Army figures. The set retails for £52.95 and depicts a patrol consisting of a sergeant and five advancing privates. These are available from Frontline Figures UK, 1 Holmsdale Close, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SS0 0QW.

Army Staff Car

Soldier Pac (2 Holland Drive, Muxton, Telford, Shropshire TF2 8RA) produce re-cast (from originals) William Britain figures and spares produced between 1893-1969. One of their latest additions to their ever extending range of castings is the two seater Army staff car, which comes already assembled at £12.50 and for which there is a choice of occupants. A civilian model pressed into military service, this was Britain's Set 1448, which was issued in 1936. The car had two different pairs of occupants - the original police driver (with right arm raised to stop traffic) and a colleague, plus the subsequent Army driver and officer. Soldier Pac can provide either of these plus a third choice of a naval driver and officer. Postage and packing is 10% (min £1) UK, 15% (min £1) EC, 20% elsewhere (airmail).

Highlanders at Culloden

Garibaldi and Co Toy Soldiers, (Via Ottaviano 66, 00193 Roma, Italy UK agent: Mr R Fori, 16 Corringham Road, Wembley Park, Middlesex HA9 9PZ) have issued a new series of figures based on the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion. One boxed set (£53) in this series offers six charging Highlanders from Clan Donald and McDonald of Keppoch at the Battle of Culloden 1746. Also available are boxed sets of the Irish picquets and the Royal Ecossais Regiment.

ABOVE: Soldier Pac can now provide this Britains two seater Army staff car. BELOW: Charging highlanders at the battle of Culloden 1746, from Garibaldi and Co Toy Soldiers.





Photographs by David Love show the Sioux warrior's horse leaping over the fallen Crow. As he brushes the other Crow warrior to one side with his shield he is about to touch the fallen warrior with his coup stick.

Counting Coup

Norman Abbey tells the story behind his diorama depicting the Plains Indians' ultimate victory

In those halcyon days of yore upon the vast plains of the North American continent, before the advent of the 'white intruder', there existed a remarkable culture (*Tinde Tinneh Dine N'de* - The People), a mystic and spiritual race wholly at one with their encompassed part of the world. Their entire lives were governed not by man-made laws, but rather by an inherent sense of being and belonging to Mother Earth and Father Sky - the wind, rivers, fire, thunder and lightning all accorded relative positions in their lives.

It naturally follows that dreams and visions bore a most constructive part of their future, self-induced or, more oft times, precipitated by actual body mutilation, (although to be scorned by the European), these visions had remarkable conclusions; Sitting Bull before the fight of the Greasy Grass, the Big Horn Battle, foresaw 'plenty' of US cavalrymen falling into the Indian encampment upside down, this after enduring 100 pieces of flesh being cut from his

arms and hanging from the Sun Dance pole from dawn to dusk for several days until awakening from his spiritual delirium the vision was manifested!

Thus the life of the young male Plains Indians proceeded through a series of tests (physical and mental) to attain the status of warrior. Proficiency with bow and arrow, lance and the plucking of eagle feathers without hopefully too much physical damage to bird or being. The unification of the Plains Indian and the pony, which reached the northern plains around the latter part of the 17th century, gave him mobility. Proud, artful and skilled in warfare, acting 'as one' with his pony, the Plains Indian was later to be described by General George Crook of the US Army as the finest light cavalry in the world.

There were two series of momentous occasions for the warrior Firstly, the summer buffalo hunts. This culling of the multi-million migratory herd of the mighty, twin-horned

cornucopia of the plains was indeed the 'staff of life' for the Plains people. The second release of youthful exuberance was the raid on hereditary foes. The Dakota (Sioux) for instance were themselves divided into several groups, the Oglala, Miniconjou, Teton and Brule. They were associated with the Cheyenne on almost brotherly status, however, a common foe were the Crows.

These raids or forays were not to be compared with European battles with their massed formations of troops and subsequent fatalities, they were more a series of skirmishes with only occasional deaths. Numbering around 30 to 40 braves the purpose was to appropriate ponies and, perhaps, females and where conditions allowed to display personal physical bravery! To charge recklessly amongst the foe with complete disregard for personal safety, touch the enemy and then escape, was the zenith of the warriors' destiny.

Coup could be counted with most anything to hand from the humble willow switch, bow, society staff, carried by the assistant war party leader, to the more flamboyant leader's flag. Coup could be counted in descending order; i.e. first, second, etc. It could also be counted on dead foes. The main feature of this exercise, however, was not to injure or create death, it was, indeed, to bring about the utmost humiliation on the foe - a ritualised act - almost, dare I say it, chivalric!

To quote a Crow chief Plenty Coups, "We rode into our village singing of victory - they came out to meet us - my heart rejoiced when I heard them speak my name! I shall never forget how happy I felt ...I had counted my first coup!"



The model

The inspiration for this particular example of ritualistic warfare came from one of Frank McCarthy's wonderful illustrations. This contemporary artist's highly detailed and individualistic work began to percolate into the UK some 10 years ago. There are several books on this American artist's work available, albeit pricey.

The action portrays a Sioux warrior with single tail war bonnet, leaping his mount over a downed Crow brave and in the process of counting coup with his curved society staff, meanwhile deflecting with his shield, a well aimed stone club from another Crow.

Basic parts were Historex, greatly revamped, the large number of horse parts now available together with a little sawing around and 'hacking' can virtually replicate any horse movement.

The three figures are quite old Historex male nudes which at this date have probably been re-fashioned! Modelling mediums were used to enhance muscle structures and a series of articles in *Military Modelling*, January - June 1995 by Charles Buchanan were particularly useful for reference on anatomy.

Detail was added from plastic card, metal foil and sprue. I attempted to simulate a flurry of movement twix horses and men and the subsequent 'swirl' of accoutrements. Humbrol matt enamel paint was used with subsequent varnishing and dusting with good quality pastels.

And now, to focus on the next project. Good modelling to all!



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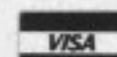
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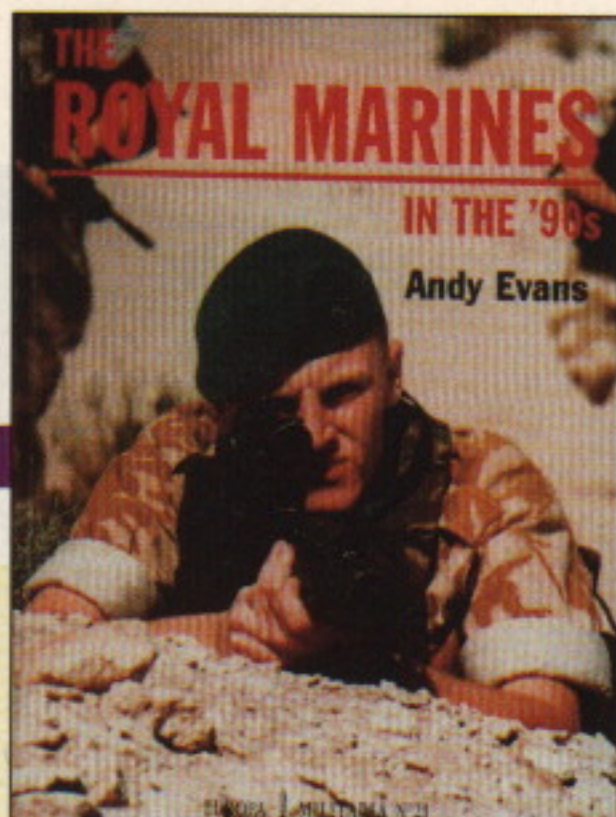
ON PARADE

BOOKS & VIDEOS REVIEWED

The Royal Marines in the '90s, Andy Evans. Windrow & Greene Ltd, 5 Gerrard Street, London W1V 7LJ. ISBN 1-85915-072-1. Price £10.95.

Essentially a photo-essay on the modern Royal Marines, Andy Evans' book is No. 21 in Windrow & Greene's 'Europa Militaria' series and presents some excellent colour pictures of these elite British troops on parade, on exercise and in action.

There is plenty of close-up photography, in full colour throughout, of men, uniforms, equipment, weapons and even the associated rigid



raiders, landing craft and landing ships, armoured vehicles and helicopters and fixed wing aircraft of other services supporting the Royal Marines. Organisational charts are included too.

Excellent for modellers, the book presents an effecting pictorial account of the famous 'green berets' - the commandos of the Royal Marines.

K.M.J.

NAPOLEON'S LINE INFANTRY & ARTILLERY Recreated in Colour Photographs



Stephen E. Maughan

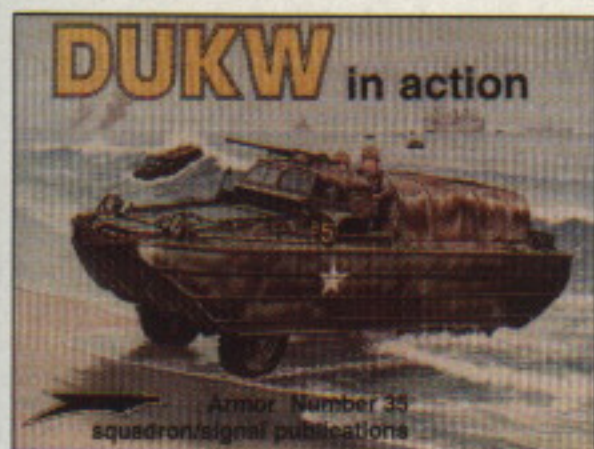
Napoleon's Line Infantry & Artillery Recreated in Colour Photographs, Stephen E. Maughan. Windrow & Greene Ltd, 5 Gerrard Street, London W1V 7LJ. ISBN 1-85915-053-5. Price £12.95.

This is a terrific collection of stunning colour photographs taken by Stephen Maughan and collected into a single

book featuring re-enactors dressed in the Line Infantry and Artillery uniforms of Napoleon's army. The book's designer has not allowed one picture to encroach across the centre gutter and negate its value as a reference illustration. This book is of immense value to modellers who specialise in the Napoleonic period.

Fortunately the percentage of shots specially posed for Stephen Maughan's camera is quite high and it's here that he really comes into his own. He is imaginative in getting his subjects to pose correctly and in a convincing manner. Modellers looking for information could do no better than add it to their bookshelves. It's excellent value at £12.95 and highly recommended.

K.M.J.



DUKW in Action, Timothy J. Kutta. Squadron/Signal Publications Inc., 1115 Crowley Drive, Carrollton, Texas 75011-5010, USA. ISBN 0-89747-372-8. Price £6.99 from Pocket Bond.

The ubiquitous American DUKW, receives the Squadron/Signal 'in action'

treatment (Armor No. 35) with invaluable photo coverage of this unique vehicle in all theatres of war, but practically all are of vehicles in US service. Colour profiles are also included which show two British army vehicles in side view.

Lots of pictures for the modeller - the Airfix 1:76 scale DUKW is in the current catalogue (kit 02316) and the book will prove useful reference for builders of this kit. Tamiya's new 1:35 scale US 'deuce and a half' truck has been announced and, who knows, maybe they will produce a kit of the DUKW at a later date.

Pocket Bond PO Box 80, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 0ND, tel: 01438 798593, fax: 01438 798616 are the UK distributors for Squadron/Signal and have stocks of this most useful book.

K.M.J.



Armor in Profile 1, Janusz Magnuski (James Grandsen). Pelta, UL. Swietokrzyska 16, 00-050 Warsaw, Poland. ISBN 83-85314-11-3. Price unknown. Received direct from Polish publisher Pelta this is the first title in what looks like being a series on armoured vehicles, and covers five different tanks - British Valentine Mark III, The Polish 10TP, Russian SMK, Hungarian 40M Turan and the French

Somua S-35. Quite an interesting mixture!

Polish author Janusz Magnuski (using James Grandsen's an 'Anglicised' pen name) has been writing about tanks for as long as I can remember and this quality publication from Poland with a Polish/English text is typical of this author's knowledgeable approach to the subject.

Each vehicle is described and illustrated with line scale drawings, photographs in black and white and colour, and a full colour fold-out sectioned drawing. An enthusiastic production by an enthusiast for enthusiasts - and the English text translation is very good too! This series is something armour modellers and enthusiasts should look out for.

Contact Pelta in Warsaw, tel: (+44-22) 27-66-14. Fax: (+48-22) 26-91-86 for more info. No doubt UK specialist booksellers who import foreign titles will add this and subsequent titles to their lists.

K.M.J.



The 1917 Spring Offensives, Yves Buffetaut. Histoire & Collections, 5 avenue de la République, 75011 Paris, Cedex 11 France. ISBN 2-908-182-67-X. Price £19.95.

Chris Lloyd Sales and Marketing Services import the Histoire & Collections range of titles, translated into English, and have sent one of the latest for review - The 1917 Spring Offensives, Arras, Vimy, le Chemin des Dames.

The Allied offensive made by the French, British and Commonwealth forces in Spring 1917 was

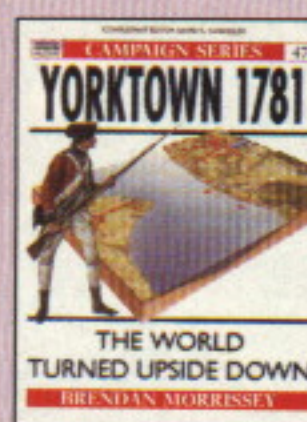
doomed to failure before it began and the battles taking the famous names of Arras, Vimy and le Chemin des Dames with the terrible casualty lists soon passed into history. The book has 192 pages and these support 300 photographs, some which have never been published before, showing in remarkable clarity the soldiers and machines from both sides taken during that fateful period.

Modellers searching for inspiration for WWI figures or dioramas need look no further, this book and its superb choice of photographs is chock full of it. Recommended.

The book is available from Chris Lloyd Sales and Marketing Services, 463 Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH14 0AX.

K.M.J.

New Osprey books for September ...



Warrior 21 - Highland Clansman 1689-1746. Campaign 47 Yorktown 1781. Campaign 48 Salamanca 1812. Campaign 49 Mons 1914. Waterloo - The Hundred Days (paperback edition). Aircraft of the Aces 15 - Soviet Aces of World War 2. Aircraft of the Aces 16 - Spitfire Mark V Aces.

NEW PRODUCTS REVIEWED

PiLiPiLi Miniatures

The latest release from PiLiPiLi Miniatures was on display at the Mondial de la Figurine in Paris, a 120mm kit of a Japanese Ronin c.1750, in what seems to be the first in a new range titled, 'Exotica'. Lee Van Quang, the man behind PiLiPiLi Miniatures, asked me to pass the word to readers that he will continue his series of Indian busts and figures, but to watch for releases in the new Exotica range as it expands.

Ronin were dispossessed samurai or warriors and the kind of stuff that Akira Kurosawa's classic film, *Seven Samurai* was about. They were the Japanese equivalent to Hollywood's Wild West 'gunslingers' of the movies, and PiLiPiLi's Ronin reflects this.

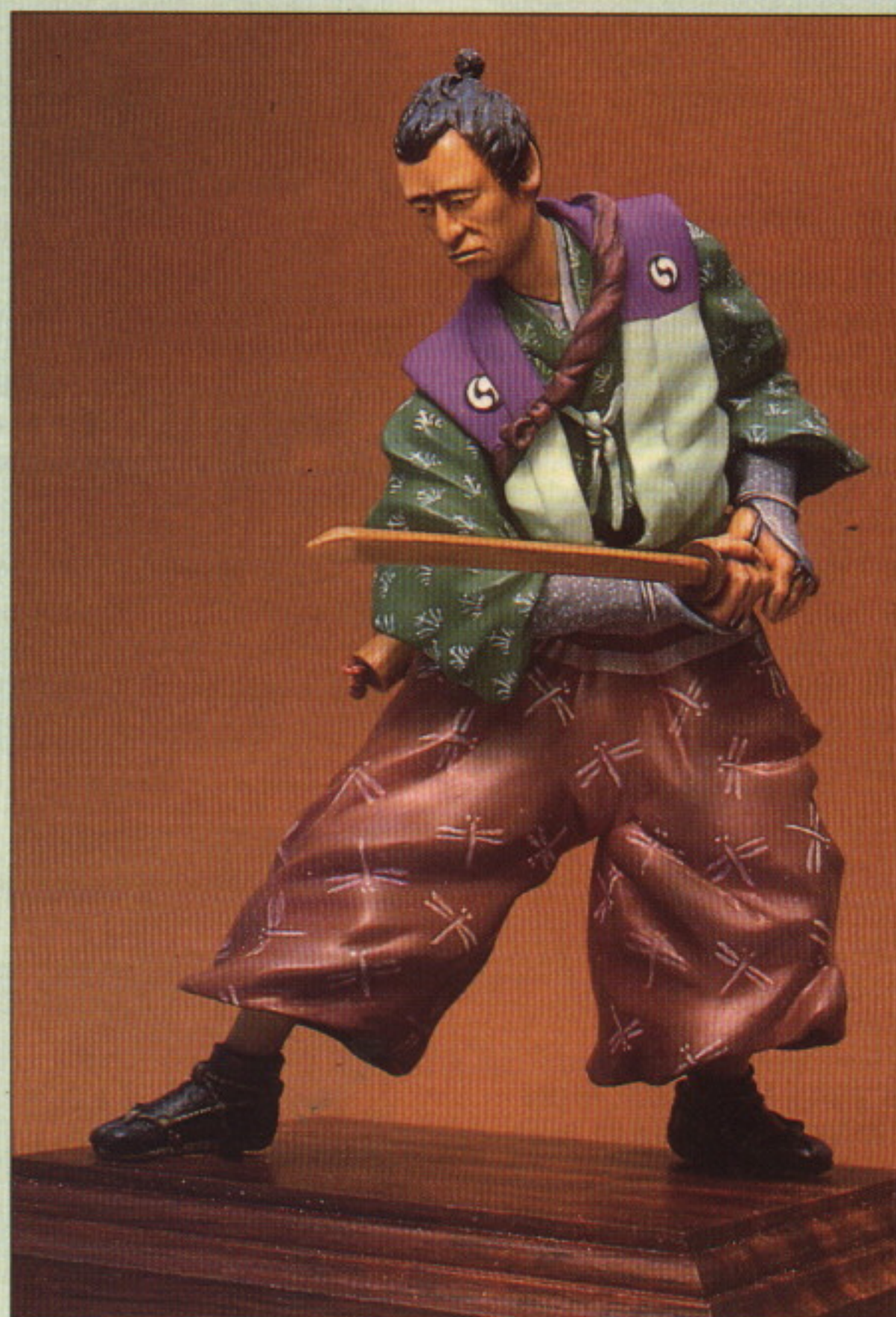
Beautifully cast in light grey polyurethane resin, this kit fits together easily; fit of parts is good and there didn't appear to be any shrinkage from the mould. Everything seems 'just right' and the kit has a very good 'feel' to it. (Feel good factor, perhaps?) The expression on the face is so much up to expectation and the detail on the castings crisp and well defined. The Ronin has a wooden sword (*bokken*) used for training, but also used in combat the instructions tell us, by Miyamoto Musashi, the most famous of all Japanese swordsmen. Evidently, the bokken was made from a special kind of hard wood and in the hands of a skilled swordsman was just as deadly as a steel blade. Perhaps some modellers may wish to change the wooden 'blade' of the bokken for one representing steel, however, the wooden blade is certainly different! Posed in travelling garb he has a shoulder bag, medicine case and spare, woven straw sandals. The active pose, accoutred thus, would indicate the travelling Ronin to have come across some 'opposition' on the road as he makes ready his wooden sword.

Paining samurai figures is popular amongst modellers and the box lid illustrations give an example; of course, a little research will pay dividends and you could paint your figure in either dowdy warlike browns and blacks or push the boat out for full colour - but don't overdo it. Another winner from PiLiPiLi and available from Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ, who stock the range and will have the kit in stock.

K.M.J.

Price £35

PiLiPiLi Miniatures, Belgradestraat 68, B-2800 Mechelen, Belgium.



Mili-Men

Latest addition to Mili-Men's "King's Shilling" range is a 120mm polyurethane resin kit of a French 8th Hussars Trooper, c.1812. It is quite a colourful subject (an assembled and painted example by Phil Stutcinkas is on this issue's cover) and one I prefer to the proliferation of German WWII types, not only from this manufacturer, but just about everyone who produces figure kits.

Designed by Stuart Hale, the figure has been cast entirely, except for the white metal sword scabbard and carbine swivel loop, in polyurethane resin. Even the sabretache straps are cast, in situ, in extra thin resin. The castings have retained the fidelity of the master and reveal some very fine detail.

An instruction sheet with colour details for painting and notes on assembly is provided. Assembly is quite straightforward and there's only the usual resin blocks left from the moulding process to remove. Look for the little block of resin supporting the carbine belt on the back of the figure which has to be carefully removed to fit the white metal carbine swivel loop.

K.M.J.

Price £27

Mili-Men, 117 Greenway Road, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 4NT. Tel/fax: 01928 592737.

Elite Miniaturas

An American Civil War Confederate Infantryman of the 17th Alabama Regiment is the latest 54mm kit from Elite Miniatures, designed by the talented Spanish modeller Raúl García Latorre.

The kit is cast in white metal and fits together in an ingenious manner; the upper torso comprises two parts which fit along the join of the haversack strap, enabling the jacket to flap open and reveal the shirt underneath. The legs are joined using the waistbelt as demarcation with a cap pouch on the raised right leg. If everything is assembled



carefully, first using dry runs to get the fit just right, only a modicum of filler will be needed.

The rifle and its attached socket bayonet is a very fine casting requiring careful handling so watch it when you open the rolled bubble wrap inside the box. The hands are cast to the rifle to ensure easy location to the arms.

The instructions are in Spanish, however, the drawings inside have the colours for the painting guide in English.

Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ stock Elite Miniatures.

K.M.J.

Price £9.95

Elite Miniaturas, Peso de la Harina 17, 29007 Málaga, Spain.

Miles Mediolanensis

No, it's not pronounced 'miles' as in English for a measurement of distance, but 'mee-les', the Latin term for militaryman, or in the later medieval period for a cavalryman. The company, of course, is Italian, the producer Ivo Fossati and the sculptor Piersergio Allevi. The kits are only obtainable direct from the manufacturer via EMI who supplied our review sample.

MLC-07, a 54mm white metal kit, is titled "...they destroyed the wall" and is a representation of a night action when the Landsknechts, commanded by General Caspar Wintzerer breached the wall at Pavia, 24th February 1525. The kit has a large, cast scenic base and the figure of General Wintzerer crosses it holding a lantern in his right hand, a poleaxe in his left.

The Intention of Miles is to produce such models, showing a particular incident in history and reproducing it in miniature, for which a small booklet included in the kit (in Italian, English and French) provides the historical notes. Painting instructions are provided by a slot-in postcard on the box top



Model Limited
Collection
by
EMI
Made in
Italy



"...habeno gittato a
terra la muraglia..."

MLC - 07
54 mm.

Pavia, 1525
Caspar Wintzerer,
Generale dei Lanzi.



"... they destroyed
the wall..."

MLC - 07
54 mm.

Pavia, 1525
Caspar Wintzerer,
Landsknechts General.



with five colour pictures for reference. The white metal castings are crisply detailed and the fit of parts good and there should be no problems with assembly although you'll have to work out what goes where before actually thinking about stick-

ing it together. A super little kit. Each kit box has an enamelled badge (stick-pin type) of the subject as a sort of seal of authenticity and to emphasise the 'limited issue' value of the model.

If you buy the kit direct from

EMI it costs £24; 65,000 Lire; 217 French Francs; 65 German Marks; \$39 US.

K.M.J.

Prices in text
Miles Mediolanensis Fabbrica,
EMI, via Inama 1, 20133, Milan,
Italy.



Andrea Miniatures

The Black Prince at Crècy is a new 54mm vignette from Andrea Miniatures (SM-S01). The Prince is on a rearing horse being attacked by two foot soldiers in what the manufacturer titles 'A dioramic presentation of a mêlée during the famous battle'. The piece designed by F. Andrea is in Andrea Miniatures' Medieval Knights range, is in kit form and cast in white metal with a scenic base in polyurethane resin. The armour worn by the Prince in this model is based on that seen on his effigy on his tomb in Canterbury Cathedral.

The kit parts assemble without fuss, though filler will be needed for the horse halves and head joins. The horse's left foreleg appears a bit above the horizontal limit line of upward movement from certain angles, but not too much. The model is a "painter's paradise" with the horse trappings and the Prince in full heraldic glory of red, blue and gold, lots of lions and fleur-de-lis!

The foot soldiers in the kit can be painted as either French attacking the Prince or painted up as English foot attacking with him for a different slant on what's presented. This is suggested in the Spanish/English instruction sheet which also gives tips on assembly and a limited amount on painting suggesting the colour photographs on the box wrappers are consulted as a guide. There are plenty of these showing a splendidly painted example by F. Rincón. It isn't a cheap model at £65 (9,500 ptas).

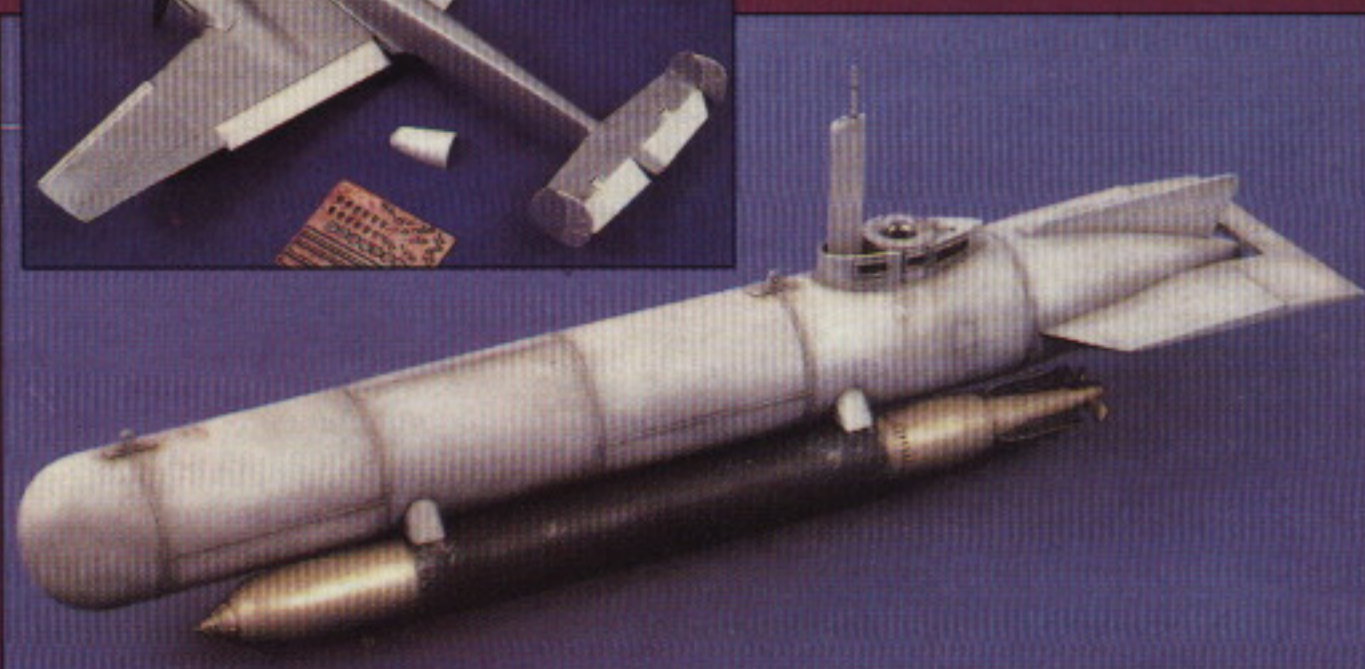
Another addition to Andrea Miniatures' 'Sceneries' range is a 54mm Medieval Tower, AS-002. The intention, it seems, is to build up a series of resin, with white metal accessories, scenic 'bases' for displaying 54mm figures. The tower is in ruined form, the back is missing, so some more up-to-date figures (how about a couple of Peninsular War 95th Riflemen?) wouldn't go amiss. The tower and its base measure 28cm high by 15cm long and 17cm wide. Price is £48.50 (7,000 ptas).

Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ, are UK stockists of the Andrea Miniatures range

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Andrea S.L., Maestro Zudaire, S/N, Los Negrales, Villalba, 28409 Madrid, Spain.



Verlinden Productions

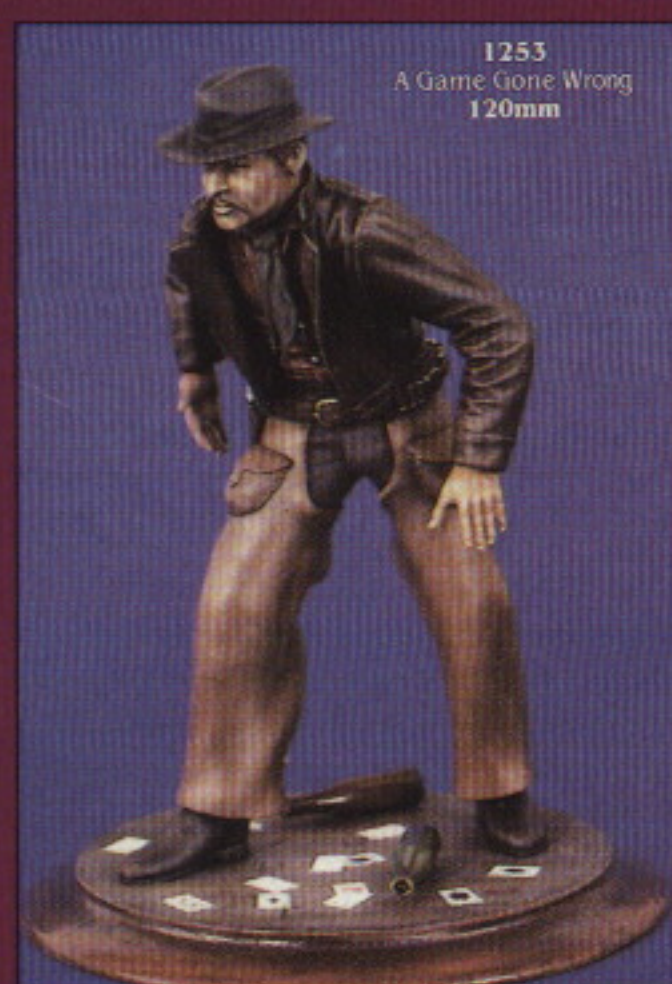
New releases for June from Verlinden are four 1:35 scale items and four Super Scale 120mm figure kits. For 1:48 scale aircraft modellers there's an update set for the Revell/Monogram

Messerschmitt Bf110 G-4 kit. Some French Commercial Posters 1930s-40s (1248 £6.50 + 50p p&p) for 1:35 scale are



printed in full colour and there are 25 different designs on the sheet. These are excellent for dioramas.

A 1:35 scale kit for a WWII



1253
A Game Gone Wrong
120mm

German miniature submarine *Molch* (Salamander) is kit 1247, £43.95 post free. The hull is a one-piece polyurethane resin casting, quite a hefty item, with a torpedo mounted on shackles either side of it. A clear vacuum formed plastic dome is provided for the top of the small conning tower. There is a longitudinal strip of resin to remove from the hull bottom and a small base on which to mount the complete craft is provided.

'Bail Out!' is a 1:35 scale two-figure set of Germans where one man helps a wounded crew mate from an AFV. Cast in polyurethane, the figures have to be used as a pair, the design having the arms of both figures cast onto both upper torsos. Kit 1249 costs £11 plus 50p p&p.

A set of replacement resin parts with a zimmerit anti-magnetic paste pattern for Tamiya's *Tiger I Ausf E* is kit 1250, price £14.25 plus 50p p&p. There is a complete new turret shell (minus roof) mantlet, glacis, rear plate, thin side and front armour which is cut to substitute or overlay kit parts and areas on the hull.



New Super Scale 120mm figure kits, cast in polyurethane resin, are No.1246 Swiss Regiment Grenadier Officer in the Napoleonic range, price £19.95 plus 50p p&p. The red coat makes a change from the normal French blue and it paints up nicely. A Knight 'Post Battle c.1350' (1251 £19.95 + 50p p&p) is a straight up and down pose, carrying his helm with his shield slung on his back and the appropriate expression on his face.

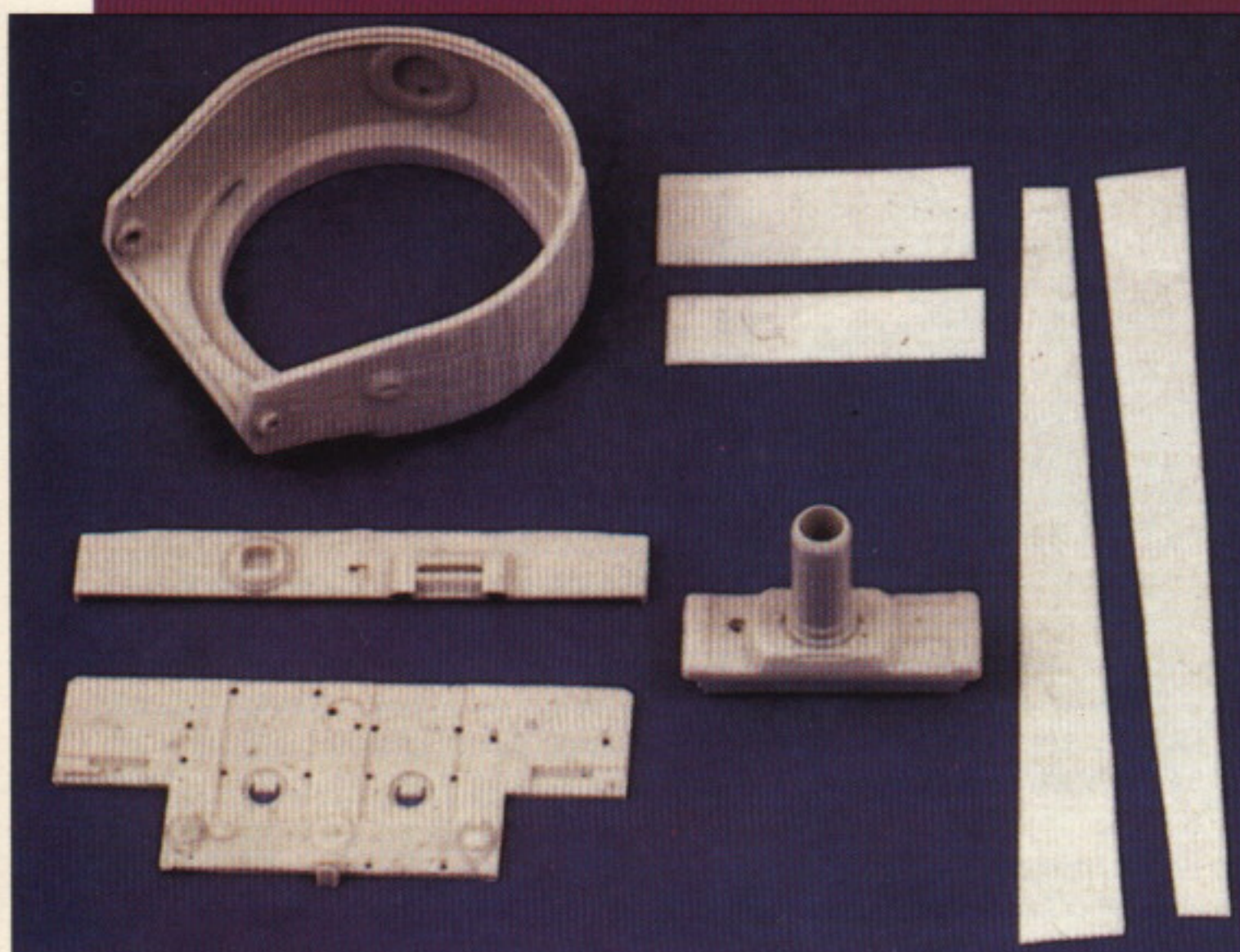
'A Game Gone Wrong' (1253 £19.95 + 50p p&p) has a 'cowboy' wearing leather chaps about to draw his gun, the scenic base littered with playing cards and bottles giving credence to the scene. Finally, in the North and South range, 1254 is a personality figure of General 'Stonewall' Jackson in a pensive study, a fine pose, price £19.95 plus 50p p&p.

Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ stock the Verlinden Productions range.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

The VLS Corporation, 811 Lone Star Drive, Lone Star Industrial Park, O'Fallon, MO 63366 USA.





Le Cimier

A General of Division 1805-1815 (CCGE) is the latest 90mm white metal figure kit designed by Charles Conrad to be released by Paris-based company Le Cimier. I picked up the review sample from Jacques Vuyet at the Paris Mondial and was able to have a good look at the finished painted model on display, and an assembled version of the

kit painted as if it were carved from ivory, (now there's a novel approach). I've asked Steve Kirtley to paint the review sample and produce a step-by-step feature on how he went about it for a future issue. Keep a look out for it. It isn't a cheap kit at £121.75 and Historex Agents of Dover will have supplies, but it is a magnificent model when assembled and painted. The detail on the castings is excellent and being a General of Division there is a lot of gold lace to paint on his hat and coat, and the horse cloth (shabrack) and holster caps are similarly adorned. Definitely a 'painter's model' and carefully produced by Le Cimier in their inimitable way. Fit of parts is good; natural joins are disguised by added separate clothing

and equipment parts, negating the use of filler, however, a 'wipe' will be needed here and there.

It's an irresistible model and available from Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ.

K.M.J.

Price in text

Le Cimier, 38 rue Ginoux, 75015 Paris, France.



Kendall Model Company

A set of conversion parts to produce a 1:35 scale model of the 75mm Gun M3 half-track using the Tamiya M21 kit (35083) is the latest model, kit number 35-1007, from KMC.

Comprising lots of cast resin parts and a photo-etched brass fret, the conversion kit comes with a comprehensive illustrated instruction sheet which takes you step-by-step through the conversion, including the alterations to the Tamiya kit. Although the kit is highly detailed because of the limitations of partial etching the bolt detail on the outside of the gun shield will have to be added

- this is clearly stated in the instructions. We'll have the kit built up as an extended review feature in a future issue - if we can find a Tamiya half-track kit to put it in!

Hannants (Harbour Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 2LZ) and Accurate Armour (Units 15-16 Kingston Industrial Estate, Port Glasgow, Inverclyde, Scotland PA14 5DG) stock the KMC range and this conversion kit is available from both.

K.M.J.

Price £28

Kendall Model Company Inc., 18495 South Dixie Highway, Box 373, Miami, FL 33157, USA. Fax: 305 234-9631.

Decima

A new 90mm two-figure vignette, cast in white metal has been released by Decima and produced by Marco Marcucci, of a Roman legionary and a wounded Celt warrior. The period is 200-100BC for the Roman legionary and 300-100BC for the Celt who wears only trousers. The legionary wears muscled cuirass, helmet with feathers and carries an oval shield - the legionary is depicted as the victor and the Celt the vanquished.

The white metal castings show a lot of crisp detail, however, a spot of filler is needed here and there around the joins to smooth them off.

Historical notes for the period are supplied (in Italian and English) along with colouring references for painting.

K.M.J.

Price on application

Decima, via Marco Polo 9, 65126 Pescara, Italy.



Accurate Armour

The new 1:35 scale kits of the Morris Light Reconnaissance Car Mark I (KT107) and Centurion AVRE 165 (Gulf War) (K76) have been sent for review, along with a brand new illustrated catalogue, from Accurate Armour.

The Morris LRC Mark I is a simple kit with a solid cast polyurethane resin hull, completely free from any blemishes, etc., with undergear parts, which are quite comprehensive for an area that's out of sight when the vehicle is on its wheels, cast in white metal. Assembly looks quite straightforward and we're building it up for a more in-depth construction feature in a future issue. Keep an eye out for it. Price is £39.95.

A more complex model kit is the Centurion AVRE (Up-armoured plus MIMIC coil) which looks a real 'mean machine'. The kit (K76) is essentially a differently configured Centurion Mark 5 AVRE



(Assault Vehicle Royal Engineers) which Accurate Armour produce as Vehicle Kit K75. I didn't know much about this new variant, but the comprehensive AA instructions fortunately describe it. MIMIC means Magnetic Impulse Mine Induction Coil - a field modification used in Operation Granby. It certainly is 'different' with this coil on the bow and

the extra reactive armour panels on turret and hull.

The box is brim full of resin and white metal parts, the latter being used for roadwheels, sprockets and idlers. The tracks are cast, link and length, in a grey resin, and there are two photo-etched brass frets with lots of details parts. Two illustrated instruction sheets are provided and these are nice

and clear, printed on better quality paper. Accurate Armour, seemingly, have taken note about the poor reproduction of the pictures on the instructions in their PzKpfw I kit. Kits of this complexity need good clear instructions and Accurate Armour have always led the field in their production. Again, it's another one for a more in-depth article. Price of the kit is £87.50.

Accurate Armour have produced a very professional looking catalogue of their range (and other lines they handle) in an A-4 landscape size format and fully illustrated in black and white photos, drawings, and colour pictures of finished model kits. A separate up-to-date price list is included. Price of the catalogue is £4.95.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Accurate Armour Ltd., Units 15-16 Kingston Industrial Estate, Port Glasgow, Inverclyde, Scotland PA14 5DG. Tel: 01475 753955. Fax: 01475 743746.



De Tara Collection

Manufactured in Spain, De Tara Collection is a new name to our column. They have sent two samples of their range for review - a 120mm polyurethane resin kit of a Mohawk Warrior



(T120/2 4,995 ptas) and a 54mm white metal kit of a mounted Polish Winged Hussar (TM54/04 5,995 ptas).

The 120mm Mohawk is cast entirely in resin, except for his musket and a couple of feath-

ers which are cast in white metal. Detail is very good but the point where the raised left leg joins the thigh is a bit unfortunate and will need filler and sanding down to disguise it - and it's right near the top of his legging and must be done with care. The raised arm fortunately joins at an arm band. Certainly a nice one to paint and a Spanish/English kit slip is provided, but no painting instructions. The Mohawk, according to the kit slip, is wearing remnants of the uniform of a Hussar of the Lavzun Legion and depicted as a scout for the British army at the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 1775. A generous moulded scenic base is included. Osprey Men-at-Arms 228 American Woodland Indians is given as a reference.

The 54mm Polish Winged Hussar c.1680, is cast in white

metal with a scenic base and banner cast in resin. A trial fit of parts shows the horse halves will need filling. The rider is a one-piece casting with the left arm and accoutrements to be added. Unfortunately no instructions or comprehensive painting details are added, but there is a colour picture on the box top for reference. However, colour details for the banner are provided. You will have to know a little about Polish Winged Hussars before you attempt assembly.

I don't know of any UK supplier for De Tara Collection, hence the prices in pesetas. There are three more 54mm kits and another 120mm resin figure kit in the range.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

De Tara S.L., Primero de Mayo 166, 39011 Santander, Spains. Tel/fax: 34 42 3343.

Wolf Models

Two new 1:35 scale figure kits and a 1:9 scale bust have been released by Wolf Models and sent for review by stockists Historex Agents of Dover.

The 1:35 scale figure kits are WAW 24 a WWII German Tankman working on a Panther road wheel and WAW 25 WWII German Tankman in Reed-Green uniform. The kits comprise detailed polyurethane castings

and can be assembled as suitable for diorama use or as 'stand alone' figures, or both could be grouped together for an interesting vignette, or posed near a vehicle. Poses are casual and natural. Price is £6 plus 30p postage each.

The bust is a French Voltigeur, c.1809 also cast in polyurethane resin, with his shako covered and a pile of kindling on the blanket strapped to his back pack. A cast, pillar type stand is provided.

Detail is excellent and a nice touch is a clay pipe stuck through the binding on the shako cover, which can be black oiled cloth or linen colour. Price is £13.20 plus 30p postage.

Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ stock the Wolf range.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Wolf Models, PO Box 64, Rochester, Kent ME1 3JR.





Aber

Historex Agents of Dover now have the range of photo etched brass produced by Aber in Poland. The range is quite extensive and I'd recommend getting hold of the catalogue first, just to see what's available, price £2.50.

The majority of the range is for armour, to 1:35 scale, but there are some railing and chain railing for ship modellers in the popular ship model scales of 1:200, 1:350, 1:400 and 1:700. The quality of the photo etched brass accessory

items for updating and upgrading scale plastic kits, etc., is very good and prices range from around £3.75 to frets at £12.90 being the most expensive (and extensive) I could see listed.

Looking at a sample to detail the US .30cal M1919-A4 air cooled machine-gun (35A32, £3.75 + 50p p&p) the fret has parts enough for three guns; even the air cooled casing for the barrel is included. Before bending this part around a rod of the

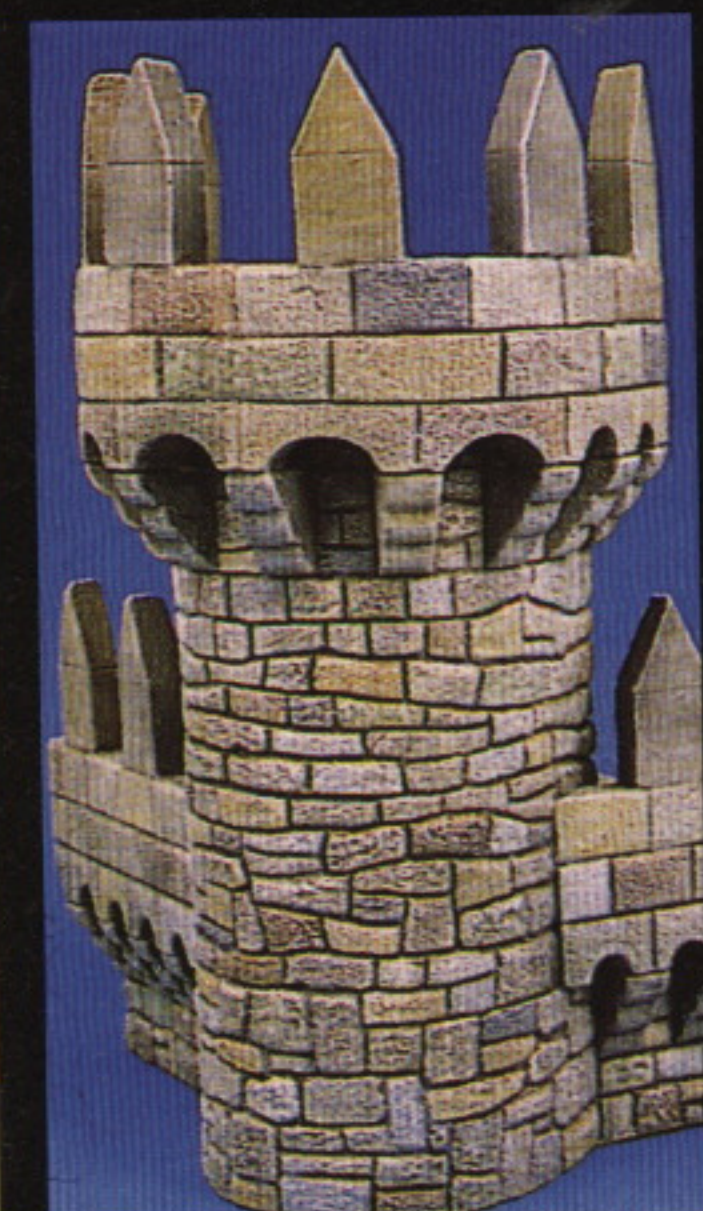
appropriate diameter (not easy!) try heating the etched brass part (after removing it from the fret) where the tempering will remove any rigidity and make it more pliable, and you'll find it rolls to shape much more easier. The result is the Browning's air cooled casing in 1:35 scale, something you'd never easily achieve by any other method.

Illustrated instructions sheets are included with Polish and English language captions and

there are dedicated sets for available kits from major manufacturers in the Aber range, plus accessories such as tools and tool clamps, grilles, non-skid plating in various patterns, etc., and all are illustrated in the catalogue, available from Historex Agents.

K.M.J.

Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ. Fax: 01304 204528.



Alhambra Models

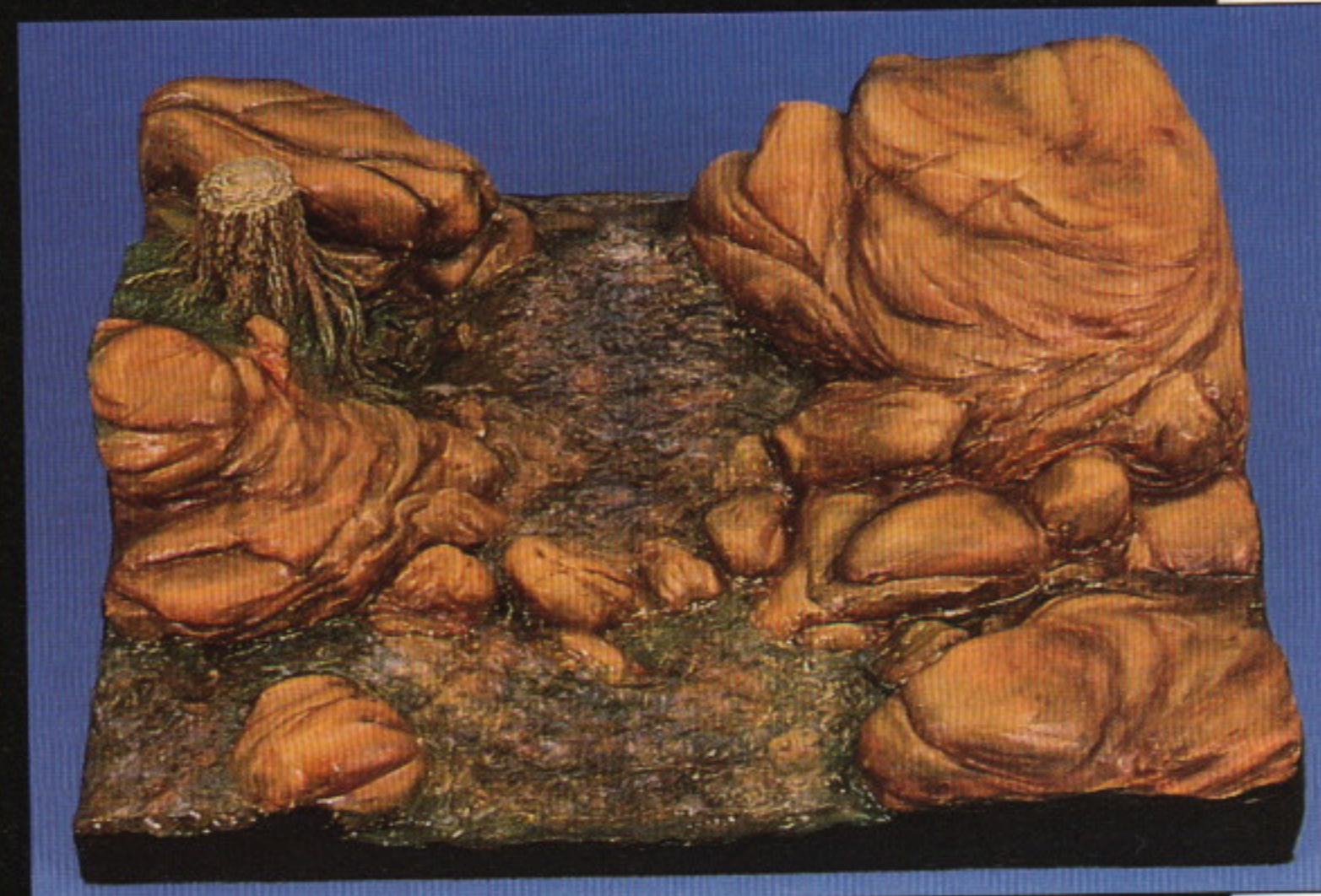
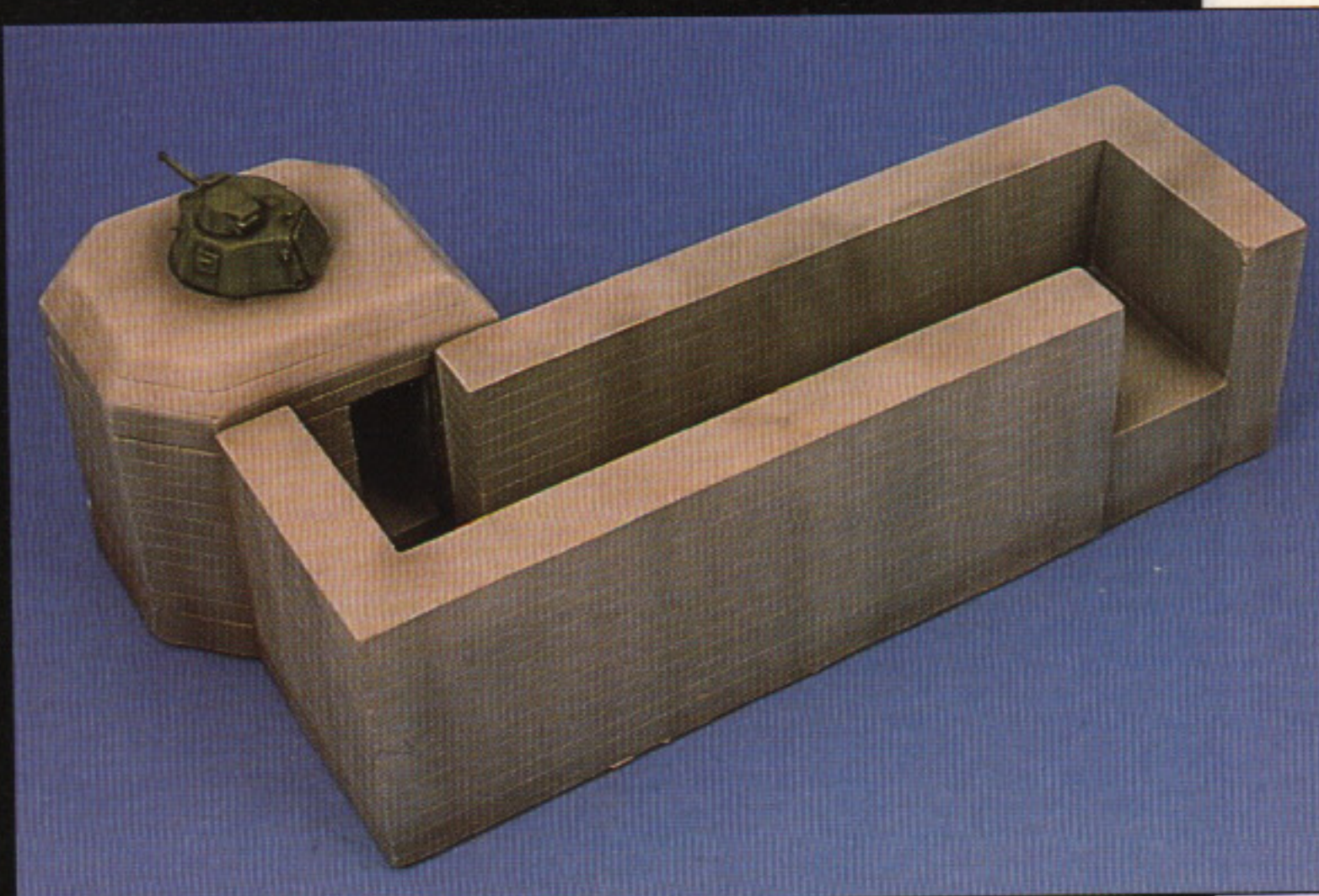
A 54mm Templar Tower Section 1 (35220) cast in plaster has been sent for review from Alhambra Models of Spain, along with a photo-etched brass fret (35007) of detail accessory parts for 1:35 scale German WWII trucks and cars. They have also sent details of scenic bases and accessories - a 1:35 scale Natural Ground Base (35701), a 1:72 scale bunker with a Renault tank turret (72503) and a 1:35 scale figure kit of a Spanish Gefreiter of the Blue Division, along with a superbly produced full colour

illustrated catalogue of Alhambra's range of products.

The Templar Tower Section 1 is the first of what it is hoped will be a series of parts to complete a Templar Castle based on those existing on the Spanish Santiago Apostle Way or in the Holy Land. It should be quite impressive when it's completed, but until then the tower is excellent for displaying single or groups of figures.

K.M.J.

Prices on application
Alhambra Models, Plaza Juan Zorrilla 3, 28003 Madrid, Spain.
Tel/fax: 34-1-554 9621.





Yanks Miniatures

We have been sent more samples from the Yanks range of 1:35 scale figures direct from the United States; Yanks Miniatures are stocked by Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157 Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ.

The figures are in kit form and cast in polyurethane resin with



plugs left from the casting process needing to be carefully removed from parts before assembly - saw the bulk away with a jeweller's saw then pare the rest away to the surface with a craft knife. Try not to use abrasive papers or files on small parts otherwise you may find you have removed far too much resin! The kit parts are finely detailed with



open clothing cast to near scale thicknesses which should be handled carefully because these areas can easily be broken.

A three-figure US Reconnaissance Set 1943-45 (9602) sculpted by Anderson Luster includes a seated figure intended to be used as a Jeep driver, although he could be used in other vehicles. The

standing figures can be posed as if conferring near a vehicle. Price of this set is £15.65 plus 50p p&p from Historex Agents.

US Prisoners of War at the Battle of the Bulge (9608), also sculpted by Anderson Luster, has one man with both arms raised in surrender whereas the other man, who is wounded, can only raise one. Two excellent figure studies for dioramas. Price is £12 plus 50p p&p.

Finally, not an American, but the figure of a Russian soldier (9625) posed as if he has just been shot whilst advancing, knees buckled hands clutching his body. Sculpted by Dave Bighia, this figure wears a big sheepskin coat, fur cap and liberated German boots. Price for a single figure is £6.65 plus 50p p&p.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Yanks Miniatures, 3731

Schuemann Drive, Omaha, NE 68123, USA.



Pegaso Models

Eight 54mm white metal foot figure kits, a 90mm kit of Peter the Great and a 54mm diorama of the Legion's Last Stand at Camerone, plus three 80mm 'girlie' figures kits in the Pegaso Girls' range, have been sent by review by Italian manu-

facturer Luca Marchetti of Pegaso Models.

Pegaso Models recently merged with another Italian manufacturer, Andrea Jula of J&J Models and the ranges combined under the Pegaso brand name to form 'Pegaso Models S.r.l.'. Historex Agents, Wellington House, 157



Snargate Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9BZ are UK stockists for the new combined range.

Some of the 54mm kits, all are in the Elite Series, have been available for some time - 032 14th century Prussian Nobleman; 033 14th century Byzantine Infantryman; 034 12th century Prussian Nobleman; 035 5th century Gothic Warrior. These are good quality imported kits, come complete with a cast scenic base and instructions, and cost £9.50 plus 30p p&p

The new 54mm kits are Napoleonic period, two Russian and two Polish, and are more expensive at £11.95 plus 30p p&p each. A Russian Artillery Officer c.1812 (057) sculpted by Victor Konnov is a subject I haven't seen before



and this one is very good. It's straight up and down, but shows some extra fine details on kiwa, gorget and epaulettes. Basically a green uniform coat set off with the Russian silver sash with orange and black lines!

Kit 058 is an Infantry Officer of the Pernovskiy Regiment 1812, also sculpted by Victor Konnov. This is a more animated pose of an officer dressed in great coat and field cap, at the head of his men left arm stretched out towards the enemy, sword ready in the right hand. He carries a haversack and wears a blanket en banderole style.

First of the Polish figures, sculpted by Piotr Gorkiewicz, is a Polish General 1810 (059). Gorkiewicz's does not seem to

Staffordshire Regiment

The Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) has sent a full colour print of an original painting commissioned by the Regiment of The Battle of Ferozeshah.

The original was painted by Peter Archer and shows elements of the 80th Regiment (The Staffordshire Volunteers) in hand-to-hand fighting with Sikhs around their large black flag, which formed the core of the Sikh defence. The flag was eventually seized after much hard fighting by Colour Sergeant Kirkland of the Grenadier Company. Kirkland was later commissioned in the field for his bravery at Ferozeshah, which was fought on 21st/22nd December, 1845 during the First Sikh War, an action which has become the present Regiment's main battle honour.



Limited edition prints of the painting are available from the Regiment. The image size is 61cm x 40cm and there are some left from the limited run of only 400 unsigned prints, price £25. A few artist-signed prints remain and are available, price £50. Postage and packing (postal tube) is £3 in the UK. Write to Captain D. Rutherford

of the 1st Battalion with your remittance, including postage, for a copy.
K.M.J.

Price in text

Captain D. Rutherford, 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's), Clive Barracks, Tern Hill, Market Drayton, Shropshire TF9 3QE.



have the same 'feel' for the 54mm figure as Konnov, they scale out a little too large and bulky, but his Polish General is depicted as an older man and is quite good although the pose is a little contrived. It's a colourful one to paint in dark blue and white with silver lace.

The other figure by Gorkiewicz is an Officer of the Polish 17th Uhlan Regiment. This one scales out at nearer 65mm, posed with one leg raised, foot on a boulder whilst smoking his pipe. This pose is a little awkward too, seemingly he has to lean over too far to rest his right elbow on his right knee to the point where he'll topple over or his head-dress will fall off in its top-heavy attempt to defy gravity!

The Legion's 'Last Stand' at Camerone, Mexico in 1863 has been designed by Stefano Cannone and has the scene of the corner of the building with an officer (presumably Lieutenant Maudet) and his remaining legionnaires about to receive the final Mexican assault on their position. The kit (54-806) includes, in addition to parts for the figures, pieces for a scenic base, remnants of walls and part of a thatched roof. There is also a 52-page booklet included, with the text in Italian, French and English telling the story (flowery English in parts) of the action at Camerone on 30th April 1863. This also has colour drawings and a line drawing of the diorama's make up.

The lot builds up into quite a compact, and heavy diorama, on a base measuring approximately 13cm x 90cm. Stefano Cannone has done his usual super job on sculpting the figures, each an individual building up into a carefully planned group. It is definitely not cheap at £86.50 plus £1 postage, but when you divide the price by the five figures and the diorama base, and not forgetting the little booklet, you could probably talk yourself into buying it!

Victor Konnov is the sculptor of the 90mm figure kit of Peter 1st of Russia - 'Peter the Great' (1672-1725) which has the Czar in the uniform of a colonel of the Preobrazhenski Guard Regiment waving his hat at the Battle of Poltava, 28th June 1709. Konnov is happily at home with 90mm figures as he is with 54mm, and this is a fine study, easy to assemble and a colourful subject for the brush, and according to the instruction sheet the figure is based on the Lemonzov mosaic and Carmessin's painting of Peter. Price is £39.50 post free from Historex Agents.

Pegaso Girls are 80mm white metal kits, a bit risqué, in various forms of undress; 01 is an 18th century Venetian lady, 02 a reclining Egyptian Princess and 03 is a 'Russian Girl'. All cost £29.95 plus 80p p&p. K.M.J.

Prices in text

Pegaso Models S.r.l., C.P. 90-Siena Centro, 53100 Siena, Italy.



Gunze Sangyo

Amerang are currently importing the range of Gunze Sangyo 1:35 scale plastic kits of AFVs which are subjects from the Dragon range. However, the Gunze Sangyo label means the parts are moulded in a 'darkish' sand colour plastic, not the much more desirable neutral light grey colour plastic used by Dragon. The instruction sheet has been slightly re-vamped and the box has a card stiffener insert which protects the parts much better. The box top artwork, of course is different, but Dragon's artist 'Vince' is responsible for the picture. Most of all, the kits are considerably cheaper at around £15 each. Photo-etched parts and clear plastic for side shields, a la Dragon, are also included where they have appeared in Dragon kits.

Subjects we received from Amerang for review were M5 Jagdpanther (SdKfz 173) 'Early Version'; M7 PzKpfw III Ausf M/N (SdKfz 141/2); M12 Panzerbefehlswagen Ausf K. The kit instructions carry illustrations of other kits - and I was interested to see M3 - a 1:35 scale French S35 Somua as modified by the Germans, M4 the PzKpfw III Ausf J and M8 StuG III F/8. There must be a few more going by the numbering sequence, and at these prices what Amerang are importing under the Gunze Sangyo label is definitely worth investigating.

K.M.J.

Price in text

Amerang, Commerce Way, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 8TE.



Clydecast Products

It's some time since we received review samples from Clydecast Products, and three of their latest 75mm white metal figure kits have just arrived. Most kits have a square, wood display base supplied, drilled for the pegs cast onto the figure's feet and is packed in a poly bag with header card and instruction sheet for assembly and painting.

CCF 93 Officer French Line Infantry (Grenadiers) c.1812; CCF 94 Rating, Royal Navy (Guard Duty Order with SA80 rifle) 1990s; CCF 95 Officer 14th (The King's) Light Dragoons, India 1849, are the latest in Clydecast's 75mm range, each costs £8.50 and if

you buy two figures you can choose your third one free; postage is extra.

Assembly is fairly straightforward, but filling will be needed around arm to body joins, the models being mainly one-piece body castings. Proof of the pudding is in the painting, but give the castings a good cleaning with a wire brush before priming and undercoating.

Clydecast also have a fine range of 90mm and 110mm figures and an illustrated catalogue of the whole range is available.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Clydecast Products, 97 Fereneze Avenue, Clarkston, Glasgow, Scotland G76 7RT.



Seabea Miniatures

A new miniature figure manufacturer to our column, Seabea Miniatures are produced in Telford Shropshire. We've received six samples for review, all 54mm white metal kits designed by Alan Caton for Seabea. Choice is varied and the figures are very reasonably priced at an introductory £3.50. A two-figure kit of a Auxiliary Fire Service hose team from the 'Blitz' with AFS transfers for the uniforms and a packet of brick dust and rubble to decorate the scenic base supplied for £9.95.

The subjects for review, in addition to the AFS pair, are all British - a Nurse of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service in Ward Dress without Tippet WWII period; Female wearing battledress WWII can be painted as ARP Warden, ATS, AFS driver or WAAF and includes an AFS transfer; a Fifer 35th Foot Royal Sussex Regiment c.1864; Private 85th Foot 1864; Shropshire Yeomanry

Trooper/Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry Trooper 1890 dismounted. Quite a colourful bunch. Also available are a Mounted Yeomanry Officer 1890 and a British Cavalry Trooper 1914-1916, as linesman, lancer or armed with sword.

There's mould part lines and a little flash here and there to remove before assembly and undercoating, and some joins will need filler. These are one-piece body castings and filling will be confined in and around the arm-to-body joins.

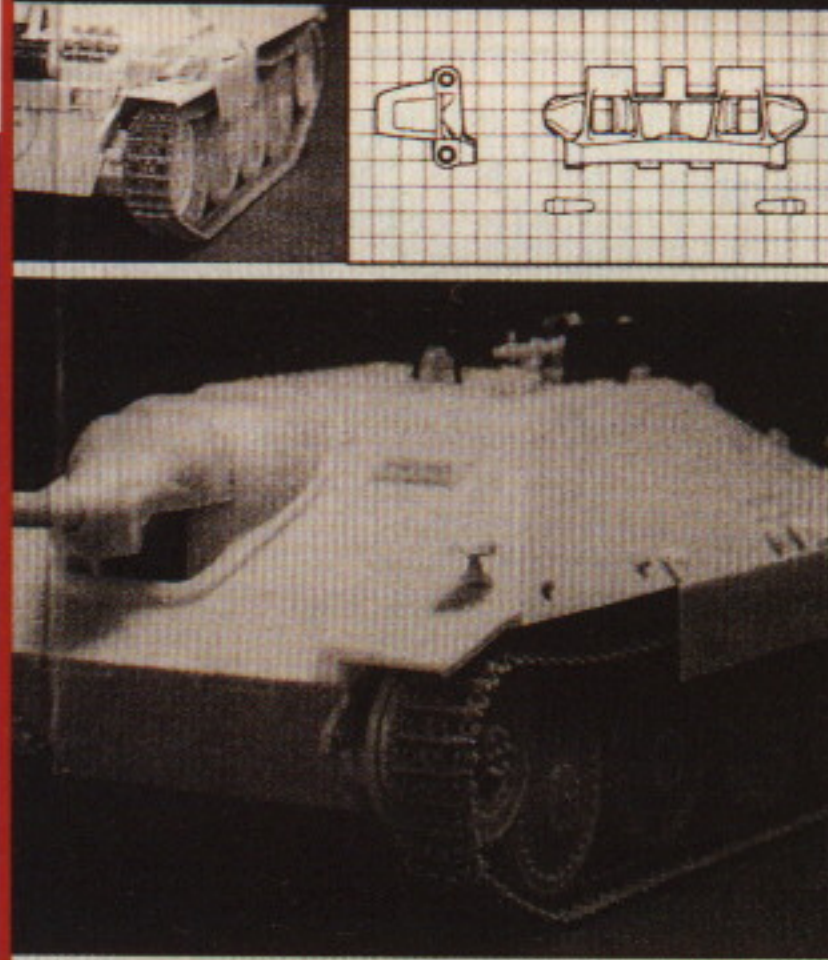
Otherwise assembly is straightforward and no hidden pitfalls are evident to trap the unwary.

The figures are available in North America from Steve Alexander of Timeless Troopers, 900 Greenbank Road, Suite 335, Nepean, Ontario, Canada K2J 4P6.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Seabea Miniatures, K. Seabrook and J. Burton, 26 Leicester Way, Leegomery, Telford, Shropshire TF1 4UT.



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MODELKASTEN

Modelkasten

Brian Sherriff has sent a sample of the latest 1:35 scale Modelkasten tracks for the *Panzerjäger Hetzer*. The tracks (SK-28) are described as early-to-middle type and injection moulded in brown polystyrene plastic. Later type tracks (SK-29) are also available. The track links are assembled and joined together on a jig, which is supplied, by inserting and gluing in plastic pins. The tracks thus assembled become fully articulated and if they are not stressed too much they can be made to work.

If you decide to replace the tracks in the *Dragon Hetzer* kit, there are modifications and adjustments needed to get them to fit, but all is explained in the illustrated instruction sheets supplied with the tracks, and the necessary plastic parts are supplied. Read the instructions first, very carefully, because

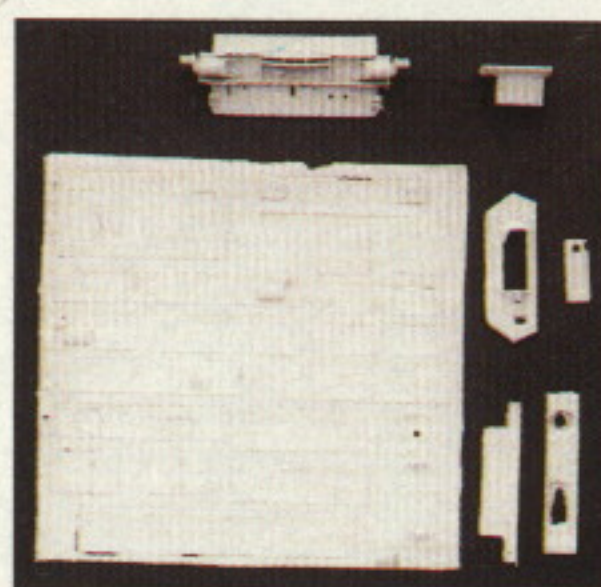
they are common to the two sets of tracks SK-28 (early) and SK-29 (late) and there are two kinds of track pins, inner and outer, if you decide on the later type tracks (SK-29). These are clearly marked on the sprues. Either way you have to assemble around 96 links a side, which isn't as tedious as it sounds using the jig supplied.

Modelkasten are now designing their new track sets much differently on the sprues for moulding and the mould release pins act on the sprue runners rather than on the track shoes themselves, which makes for a completely unblemished casting.

Brian Sherriff stocks the Modelkasten range which is produced in Japan by Artbox, and they are available from him at PO Box 6950, Forfar, Scotland DD8 3YF.

K.M.J.

Price £21.50 plus £3.50 p&p
Artbox/Modelkasten,
Nandocho-3, Shinjuku-ku,



Cavalier

The Australian-manufactured resin models from Cavalier Model Productions (PO Box 273, Ingleburn, 2565 NSW Australia) are now available in the UK from Swan Model Engineering Ltd of Colwyn Bay in Wales.

Swan have sent Cavalier Item No: 0109 a set of parts with a zimmerit anti-magnetic mine plaster pattern to modify Tamiya's PzKpfw IV Ausf H, (kit No. 35209). There are 10 differ-

ent Cavalier kits available for applying zimmerit to Tamiya, Italeri and Dragon kits.

The parts are provided integral to a flexible type skim of polyurethane resin, supported on clear plastic, from which they can be easily removed, to be fixed to the kit parts with five-minute epoxy glue. Replacement parts for the hull rear plate, mantlet and gun mounting, and driver's plate are provided. A small, toothed resin part is also provided to produce a zimmerit pattern on the hull sides, etc., if this is required. Instructions are included on how to fit the parts to the Tamiya kit.

For full details of the range contact Swan Model Engineering Ltd
K.M.J.

Price £11.20

Swan Model Engineering Ltd.,
Chester House, The Dingle,
Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, Wales LL29 8HF.



T-34/85 SOVIET BATTLE TANK



1:35 SCALE
Echelle
No 295

Italeri

Further re-issued kits in 1:35 scale from Italeri, via their UK importers Riko International, are the Chevrolet 15-cwt Truck (No.233) and the German

Leopard 1A (No.224). Continuing their co-operation with Russian manufacturer, Zvezda, Italeri have re-boxed the latter's Soviet T34/85 medium tank (No.295). The Zvezda T34 isn't a bad kit; it's a little

crude in parts, with soft plastic tracks and some 'thick-eared' casting here and there, but there are better T34/85s on the market, but it is, however, very reasonably priced at around £10.50. (From Wonderland

Models, 97-101 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH3 9AN).

The Leopard 1A4 is 'old school' Italeri, crisp mouldings with beautiful detail and this kit stands the passage of time very well. It's as good as you'll see produced today and better than most Russian stuff. It does, however, retain its soft plastic tracks, but at £12.99 (Wonderland Models) it's good value and perhaps the best, and only, Leopard 1A4 you'll find.

The Chevrolet (of Canada) 15cwt light truck will be a welcome re-issue for many modellers because this is one area in 1:35 scale that is poorly served with kits. This kit, and the gun quad version, have an ancient lineage stretching back to the Max-Peerless days. It is a highly detailed kit and lends itself for conversion to other types of body. It's a kit I'm pleased to see available once more, however, there's some unfortunately located 'sink' marks (on the leaf springs), but I can live with these.

K.M.J.

Prices in text

Italeri S.P.A., via Pradazzo 6/B, Calderara di Reno (Bo), Italy.



STOP PRESS... New Tiger from Tamiya

Tamiya have announced the German Tiger I, Early Production Model, as a new 1:35 scale kit, no. 35216. Tamiya released this variant of the Tiger I as a kit in their early days and they have completely updated it beginning with the reshaping of the lower hull.

The early rubber-tyred roadwheels are the same as those in the mid-production variant of the Tiger kitted by Tamiya as kit no. 35194, but two types of drive sprocket are provided. Tamiya have stuck to their one-piece flexible tracks, which although highly detailed, have now been eclipsed by polystyrene links in most manufacturers' kits. With The Tiger's highly visible top-run of track, coming back from the sprockets to the roadwheels, I'd have thought single links or link and length type would have been a wiser move.

Two versions of engine air cleaner equipment are provided with some realistic textured air hose and there are decals with sufficient markings for six different vehicles.

K.M.J.

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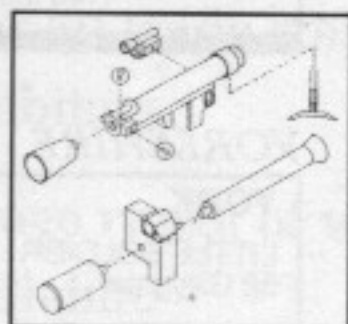
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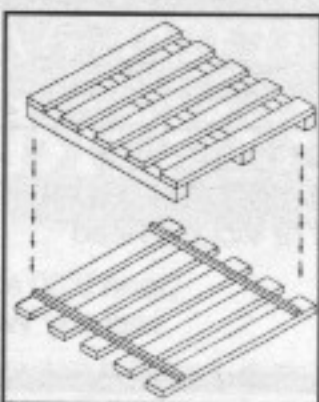
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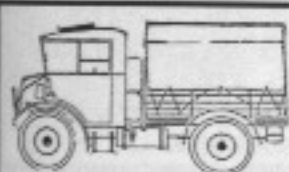
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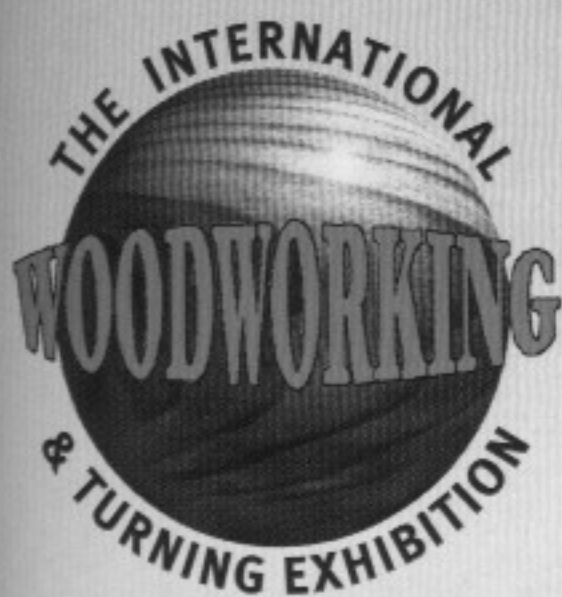
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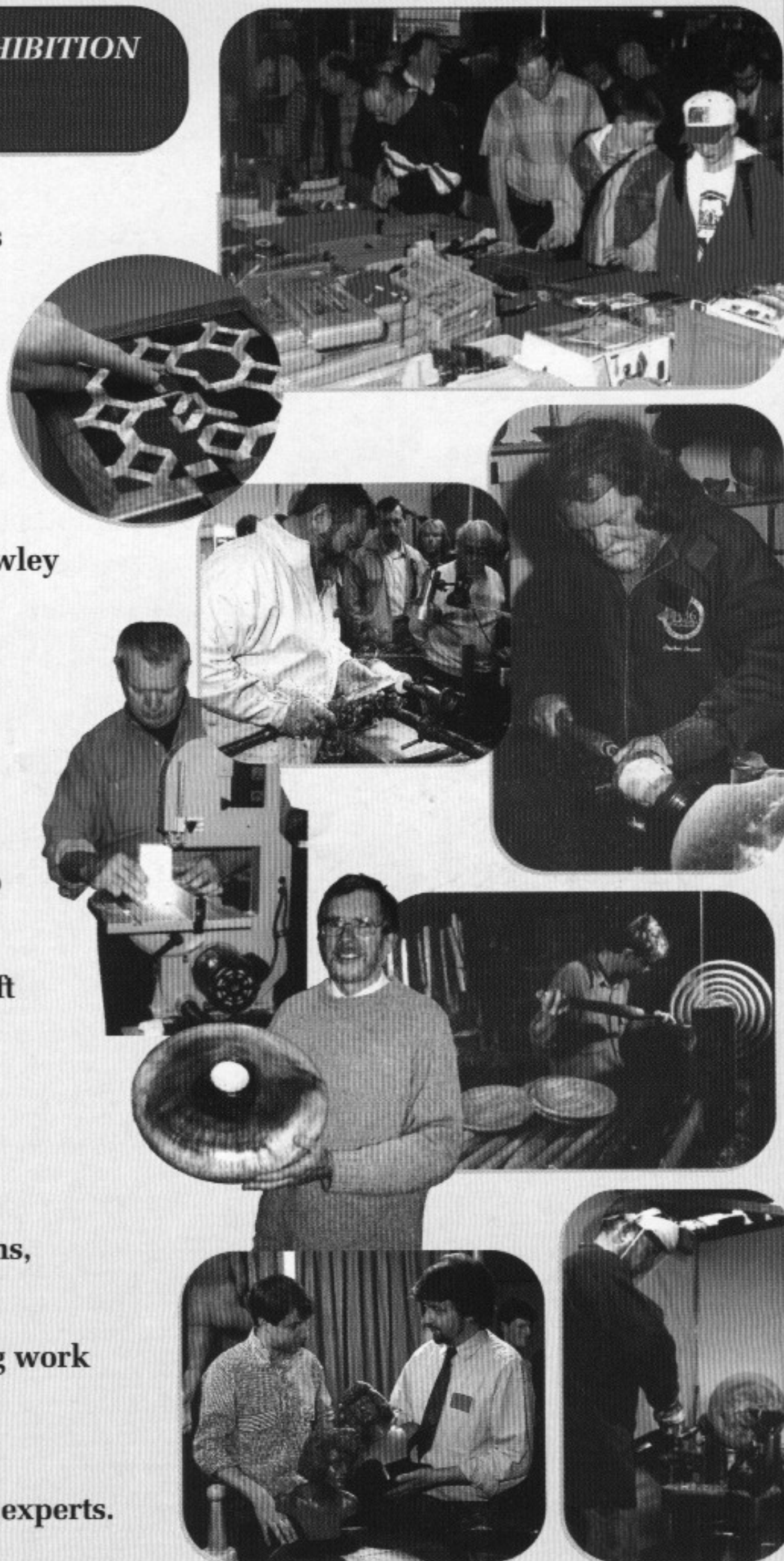
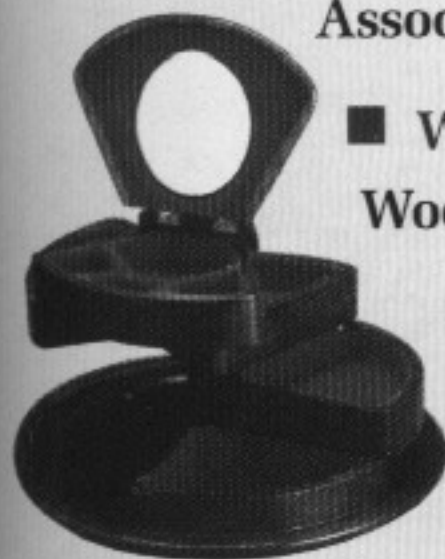


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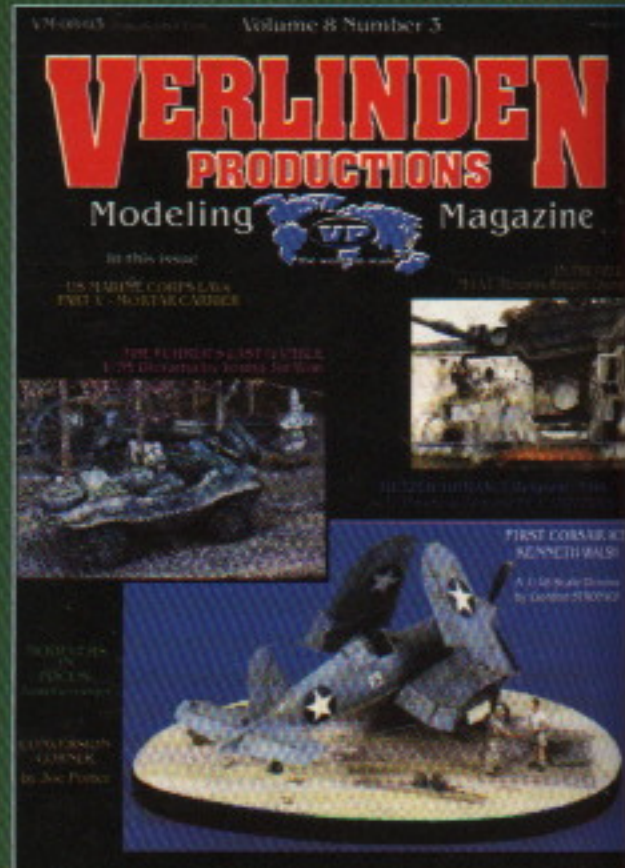


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